

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
MICHIGAN STATE ADVISORY FORUM

July 18, 1991 - 9:00 a.m.

OMNI HOTEL - 333 East Jefferson
Detroit, Michigan

PRESENT:

Chairperson

Dennis Gibson

Vice Chairperson

Dr. Janet Frazier

Members

Peter Kobrak

Prince Halliday

Robert Gordon

Barbara Gattorn

Joan Webkamigad

Robert Hwang

Jack Martin

Larrain Thomas

STAFF:

Constance Davis

Carol Lee-Hurley

Peter Minarik

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CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Good morning. I
-- guess we well get started; I have a brief statement
to make.

This meeting of the Michigan Advisory
- Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
shall come to order. For the benefit of those in
- our audience, I shall introduce myself and my
colleagues. My name is Dennis Gibson, and I am the
Chairperson of the Advisory Committee. -I shall
introduce myself and the other members will be
- introduced. My name is Dennis Gibson. My paid job
is, I should say, I am Executive Director for the
- Metropolitan Youth Foundation. -I serve as the
Chairperson for the Advisory Committee. The
- members, -I will start from my right, you want to
introduce yourself and what you do in regular life.

MR. KOBRAK: In the real world?

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: In the real world.

MR. KOBRAK: - I am Peter Kobrak. -I teach
Public Administration and Political Science at
Western Michigan University.

DR. FRAZIER: Janice Frazier, Vice

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Chair.

MR. GORDON: Ron Gordon. I am an attorney in practice with Jaffe, Snider, Raitt and Heuer.

MS. GATTORN: I am Barbara Gattorn of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce.

MS. WEBKAMIGAD: I am Joan Webkamigad. I am with the Michigan Department of Education.

MR. MARTIN: Jack Martin presently serving with the Bush Administration in Washington, D.C. with the Department of Health and Human Services.

MS. THOMAS: I am Larrain Thomas with Blue Cross-Blue Shield.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Also present with us today is Constance Davis, Director of the Midwest Regional Division out of the Chicago Office of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission; Peter Minarik, a Civil Rights Analyst out of the Chicago Office; and Carol-Lee-Hurley, who is representing the National Office out of Washington, D.C.; and Faye Robinson. I don't see her here this morning, but she was with us last night. Faye is out of the Kansas City Office of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

We are here to conduct a briefing forum

1 for the purpose of gathering information on the
2 rise of hate crime in Michigan. The jurisdiction
3 of the Commission includes discrimination or denial
4 of equal protection of the laws because of race,
5 color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national
6 origin, or in the administration of justice.
7 Information which relates to the topic of the forum
8 will be especially helpful to the Advisory
9 Committee: The proceedings of this meeting which
10 are being recorded by a public stenographer, will
11 be sent to the Commission in Washington, for its
12 advice and consideration. Information provided may
13 also be used by the Advisory Committee to plan
14 future activities.

15 At the outset, I want to remind
16 everyone present of the ground rules. This is a
17 public meeting, open to the media and the general
18 public. But we have a very full schedule of people
19 who will be making presentations within the limited
20 time we have available. The time allotted for each
21 presentation must be strictly adhered to. This
22 will include a presentation by each participant,
23 followed by questions from the committee members.
24 To accomodate persons who have not been invited,
25 but wish to make statements, we have scheduled an

1 open period from 9: -- 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.. And
2 anyone wishing to make a statement during that
3 period should contact Peter Minarik. Pete you want
4 to raise your hand. Pete is in the back, for
5 scheduling.

6 Written statements may be submitted to
7 committee members or staff here today or by mail to
8 the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 175 West
9 Jackson Street, Suite A-1332, Chicago, Illinois
10 60604. The record of this meeting will close on
11 July 31st, 1991.

12 Some of the statements made today may
13 be controversial. We want to insure that all
14 invited guests do not defame or degrade any person
15 or organization. In order to insure that all
16 aspects of the issues are represented,
17 knowledgeable persons will be ---with a wide range
18 of experience and viewpoints have been invited to
19 share information with us. Any person or any
20 organization that feels defamed or degraded by
21 statements made in these proceedings should contact
22 our staff during the meeting so that we can provide
23 a chance for public response. Ultimately such
24 persons or organizations can file written
25 statements for inclusion in the proceedings. I

1 urge all persons making presentations to be
2 judicious in their statements.

3 The Advisory Committee appreciates the
4 willingness of all participants to share their
5 views and experience with this Committee.

6 So far we are on schedule. We have an
7 agenda 9:10 reserved for the Office of the Mayor.
8 We were in contact with the Mayor's Office
9 yesterday, and we have not heard back from the
10 Mayor's Office, a response of anyone to participate
11 in the hearings this morning. So, we will be a
12 little bit ahead of the schedule, and we have Ray
13 Plowden, Chief of Staff for the office of
14 Congressman John Conyers, First District --
15 Congressional District here in Michigan. Ray.

16 MR. RAY PLOWDEN: Thank you. Will you
17 pass these out please.

18 Congressman Conyers had planned on
19 being here today, but hearings in Washington, D.C.
20 preclude him from coming, so I have a prepared
21 statement by him. I would like to thank the
22 Michigan Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission
23 on Civil Rights for conducting this briefing forum
24 "The Rise of Hate Crimes in Michigan". I would
25 also like to thank you for offering me this

1 opportunity to appear before you.

2 It has been over twenty years since the
3 Kerner Commission Report proclaimed that America
4 was moving towards two societies, one Black and one
5 White separate and unequal. Many barriers to
6 racial equality have fallen, leading to greater
7 prosperity for the African-American middle-class,
8 however, the economic plight of poor, inner-city
9 African-Americans is more dismal now than ever
10 before. Our society remains essentially divided
11 along racial lines, into two communities, both of
12 which are suspicious, and often fearful of one
13 another.

14 Other ethnic religious and cultural
15 confrontations are also increasing. Arab-vs-Jew,
16 Hispanic-vs-White, African-American-vs-Chaldean,
17 etc. Hate violence is the product of the tension
18 existing between these communities.

19 During my tenure as Chairman of the
20 Criminal Justice Subcommittee we heard testimony at
21 five hearings between 1985 and 1989, which
22 established beyond dispute that hate crimes were
23 increasing and that people who say hate crime
24 violence is nonexistent, isolated or decreasing are
25 dangerously out of step with reality. In addition

1 to the crimes of violence against minorities, the
2 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has reported an
3 increase of violence aimed at gays and lesbians.

4 African-Americans and other people of
5 color, as well as Jews, remain the most frequent
6 targets of organized hate violence. Despite a
7 decline in Klan membership since 1982, unorganized
8 hate violence has continued unabated. New
9 organizations have blossomed such as the White
10 Aryan Resistance, the Invisible Empire and
11 Skinheads.

12 These groups have stepped-up recruiting
13 on college campuses as well as high schools.

14 Although they may not have the membership they
15 desire, their message is getting through and is
16 resulting in an increase in unorganized anonymous
17 hate activity.

18 The Community Relations Service (CRS)
19 of the U.S. Department of Justice has documented
20 for fiscal 1990, 546 racial conflicts, an increase
21 of 37%, attributed to hate groups.

22 In April, 1990 as part of the Justice
23 Department's initiation addressing hate violence,
24 CRS initiated a toll free telephone hot-line
25 1-800-347-HATE, for incidents of hate activity.

1. Through the hot-line, CRS collected data concerning
2 incidents which are perceived as a result from
3 discrimination based on race, color, national
4 origin, religion or sexual preference.

5 After six months, CRS entered over
6 2,140 records into its hotline database. During
7 this period, 865 incident-based calls were
8 recorded. Of these, 701 incidents targeted people
9 rather than property.

10 In the 695 calls where the location of
11 the incident was given, 25% occurred on school
12 campuses (about one-third on college campuses), 21%
13 at businesses, and 17% at religious buildings or
14 property. The remaining 37% occurred at various
15 locations in the community.

16 67% of the callers were between 25 and
17 54 years of age and 19% between 14 and 24.

18 57% of the reported offenders were
19 white; 27% Blacks; 8% Hispanic; 3% Asian or
20 Asian-Indian; and 1% Native American.

21 In 8% of the calls, the reported basis
22 of victimization was sexual orientation, and in 1%
23 it was religion.

24 A sample of the most recent incidents
25 in Michigan are:

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Roseville, August 1990 - African American killed by white assailants with a baseball bat.

Last year, Farmington Hills, Michigan an interracial couple's home spray painted.

Due to the Persian Gulf crisis stores owned by Arabs or Chaldeans were vandalized.

In May an African American news reporter had his home spray painted with Anti-Black graffiti.

July, 1991, Anti-Semitic spray painting in park in Oak Park, Michigan frequented by orthodox Jews.

Most recently, day before yesterday, off duty African-American State Trooper harassed by White youths in Dearborn Heights.

Just recently college student from Central, Michigan dropped off a letter received in the mail. This is the third letter she has received. The most troubling part about that and I have for reasons of privacy blotted out the name on that letter. The problem with that is that the letter was mailed to her at the dormitory and summer recess had begun, and it was returned. That letter was mailed to her home along with the return

1 envelope. So someone in that area has made it a
2 point to get this out to the African-American
3 students at Central Michigan. A number of students
4 received the letter. We were hoping that they
5 would be here today, hoping they will show-up.

6 Two weeks ago at Four Bears Waterpark
7 two black females were attacked by a group of
8 whites.

9 These incidents were only a few
10 publicized or reported and it is safe to assume
11 many more occur.

12 It was reports such as these and
13 testimony given at the previously mentioned
14 congressional hate-crimes hearing which propted me
15 to author the Hate Crimes Statistics Act which was
16 passed by the 101st Congress and signed by
17 President Bush in April of 1990.

18 The law requires the Justice Department
19 to collect data on the incidence of certain crimes
20 that manifest prejudice based on race, religion,
21 sexual orientation, or ethnicity. Under the law,
22 such statistics may be collected for the crimes of
23 homicide, non-negligent manslaughter, rape,
24 assault, arson, intimidation, and destruction,
25 damage or vandalism of property. It specifies that

1 such data be collected for 1991 through 1996. The
2 law specifies that information collected under its
3 authority may be used only for research and
4 statistical purposes, and may not contain
5 information that might reveal the identity of
6 victims.

7 The continued increase in violence
8 directed against African-Americans, other people of
9 color, members of certain religious groups, and
10 ethnic minorities shows that hate violence is still
11 ingrained in the fabric of American society, and we
12 must be vigilant and oppose it at every juncture.

13 This situation clearly shows that people who hate
14 don't discriminate.

15 There is still much about the nature
16 and scope of this problem that we do not know such
17 as: whether some parts of the country are
18 experiencing more hate crimes than others, or are
19 their patterns evident in the background of the
20 perpetrators and victims? I believe that such
21 information would be of great value to law
22 enforcement personnel and legislators concerned
23 about the eradication of this problem. With the
24 enactment of hate crimes statistics legislation,
25 the answers to these questions can easily be

1 ... obtained.

2 Hate crimes, which target individuals
3 ... simply because of their race, religion, sexual
4 orientation or ethnicity, have no place in a
5 ... society such as ours, which prides itself on
6 ensuring that equality is a fundamental right of
7 ... all citizens. Hate crimes are extraordinary in
8 nature and require a special governmental response.
9 ... It is the governmental units which set the
10 atmosphere and examples for community groups and
11 ... individuals to follow. By devoting Federal
12 resources to the collection of information about
13 this problem, the Congress has demonstrated that it
14 is concerned about the threat that racism and
15 bigotry pose to the peace and harmony of our
16 communities, and is willing to take effective steps
17 to address it. Thank you.

5
18 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you very much.
19 Any questions for Mr. Plowden?

20 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman?

21 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Jack. Mr. Martin.

22 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Plowden, what is the
23 ... status of the Uniform Hate Crime Reporting
24 activity, has that been implemented? Are
25 ... statistics being reported?

1 MR. PLOWDEN: Statistics are to be
2 reported this year and reported by the U.S.
3 Department of Justice. The problem we are hearing,
4 and we have no evidence of this, but we are hearing
5 that some of the local police agencies are not
6 collecting data on hate crimes. And therefore, the
7 report will not be, have enough information for the
8 entire nation. And that is the problem that the
9 Justice department is looking into, how do you
10 enforce the police agency to keep statistics. Some
11 say it is budgetary and some don't care and the
12 like.

13 MR. MARTIN: Any geographic trends?

14 MR. PLOWDEN: None that I have heard
15 of. Smaller towns, number one. The larger ones
16 claim that budget restrictions prevent them from
17 assigning someone to do that.

18 MR. MARTIN: The primary source of the
19 data is through local police agencies?

20 MR. PLOWDEN: Local police agencies
21 need to give it to the FBI and the Justice
22 Department and so forth.

23 MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

24 MS. GATTORN: To follow-up on that: Do
25 you know what the status of that reporting

1 procedure is with the Detroit Police Department,
2 for instance, or here in southeast Michigan?

-3 MR. PLOWDEN: - No, I don't.

4 MS. GATTORN: Or in --

5 MR. GORDON: Mr. Plowden, are you
6 getting cooperation from the State Police agencies
7 on the gathering of the statistics?

8 MR. PLOWDEN: That would be through the
9 Department of Justice and I have not contacted them
10 to find out exactly which agencies are --

11 MR. GORDON: Was there during the
12 congressional hearings that were held, you
13 indicated there was increased, evidence of increase
14 of hate crimes. Was there any evidence that in
15 fact that there was an increase in hate crimes or
16 just in the reporting? There is -- I have heard
17 some suggestions that, in the past several weeks
18 there has been increased reporting which may not
19 relate to the national increase in violence --

20 MR. PLOWDEN: I think the data that was
21 collected during that time showed that over the
22 last ten years in the 80's, it was not just,
23 correct, there was an increase in reporting, but
24 they also feel there was increase in actual
25 violence. There was a tone set in the country that

1 -- allowed people to show their displeasure with other
2 groups much more than just being verbal about it.

3 MR. GORDON: When you said it was a
4 "tone set", in the hearings, was there, or was
5 suppositions made as to what --

6 MR. PLOWDEN: Not necessarily, but I
7 think you can look at certain campaigns which
8 occurred that would give credence to people,
9 allowing them to be a little more, more than just
10 vocal in their, in their attitudes.

11 -- MR. KOBRAK: Mr. Plowden --

12 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Mr. Plowden, we are
13 here trying to find out if there is a rise in the
14 hate crimes. And we are also here to find out, if
15 it is, what are some of the solutions? What are
16 some of the findings that we should be doing to
17 reduce the rise in hate crimes?

18 MR. PLOWDEN: I think education, one, I
19 think there are a lot of stereotypes and myths
20 about different ethnic groups. There is not as
21 much interaction amongst the groups, as there should
22 be. We don't play together. We don't live
23 together, even, even incidents at work creates
24 tensions. Therefore, there has to be much more
25 interaction amongst the groups. There has to be

1 much more intolerance of events which take place
2 whether white on black, black on white, whether
3 Hispanic on Native American. We all have to speak
4 up when it is there and not try to hide it or call
5 it something else.

6 MR. KOBRAK: Did the Committee come up
7 with any other reasons for this increase in hate
8 crimes? You mentioned the tone, did they speculate
9 on any other --

10 MR. PLOWDEN: Not really.

11 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay. Jack.

12 MR. MARTIN: Going back to the
13 statistics: Is there any plan or attempt to
14 correlate statistics with say local economic
15 conditions or any other factors that might indicate
16 why people manifest this type of behavior?

17 MR. PLOWDEN: I think the statistics
18 are there if the legislature, legislators want to
19 fashion a bill or any research is done by
20 universities or governmental agencies or to help
21 come up with a solution to the problem they can use
22 that in conjunction with any other statistics or
23 research that they have, so I don't think that,
24 that would be impossible to do. It will be public
25 information.

1 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Mr. Plowden I want
2 to thank you very much.

3 MR. PLOWDEN: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Next on the agenda,
5 we have Senator David Honigman. I see he is not
6 here yet, so we will move to John Roy Castillo.

7 - John?

8 John is the Director of the Michigan
9 Department of Civil Rights.

10 MR. JOHN ROY CASTILLO: Good morning.

11 My name is John Roy Costillo, and for nearly the
12 past six years I have served as the Director of the
13 Michigan Department of Civil Rights. I believe I
14 have been before this Committee at least twice and
15 every time I have been here, it has been very
16 enjoyable. I wish the topic was a little better
17 topic than the one we are discussing today, but I
18 know we have to discuss and look at all sorts of
19 issues.

20 The Michigan Civil Rights Commission
21 and the Department of Civil Rights are concerned
22 about the increase in hate crimes and other
23 incidents that cause racial and ethnic tensions in
24 our community. Hardly a day goes by without some
25 report either nationally or locally of what we call

1 a tension-creating situation. Many of these
2 situations are reminiscent of the reports from past
3 decades. Just 23 years ago, for instance, the
4 Kerner Commission pointed up the widening gap
5 between the human needs and the public resources;
6 law enforcement's use of force and the disparities
7 in the administration of justice; and stereotypical
8 coverage by the media. These were some of the
9 major concerns that led to the conclusions then
10 that our nation is moving toward a society -- two
11 societies, one black, one white -- separate and
12 unequal.

13 Today reports indicate that our nation
14 is still very much segregated in spite of the
15 "progress we have made as a result of civil rights
16 laws and programs." In addition, the unemployment
17 rate of black and other minorities is as high as
18 three times as that of whites. The poverty rates
19 in our state and nation are also escalating at
20 rapid rates. One would think that any one of these
21 conditions would be sufficient to cause tensions in
22 our communities. The competition for an ever-
23 shrinking piece of the pie is unforeesably fierce.
24 This has led to charges of preferential treatment,
25 quotas and reverse discrimination in affirmative

1 action and other civil rights programs. Needless
2 to say, the confusion and misinformation on this
3 issue has caused a great deal of tension, most
4 notably on our college campuses -- do you want me
5 to stop?

6 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Oh, no, no.

7 MR. CASTILLO: I will if you want me
8 to.

9 Concern about the impact of increased
10 tensions reported on several campuses in this
11 state, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission held
12 public hearings on Civil Rights in Higher Education
13 in the spring of 1988. Its purpose was to assess
14 the learning, living and working climates for
15 minorities on Michigan campuses. Hearings were
16 held at four universities that served as hosts for
17 a particular region. The Commission also held a
18 final consultation with university and college
19 officials. More than 500 individuals participated
20 in the hearings and the consultation, and we
21 produced a 73-page report. This report contains
22 the Commission's policy statement, findings and 44
23 recommendations.

24 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: If you could slow it
25 down a little.

1 MR. CASTILLO: - I will try. I know I've
2 only got so much time, and I will give them written
3 testimony.

4 THE COURT REPORTER: Appreciate that.

5 MR. CASTILLO: Or if you want me to
6 slow it down, it is your pleasure; I thought I was
7 limited.

8 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: No, go ahead, we've
9 got plenty of time.

10 MR. CASTILLO: Well, in that case --
11 the Commission's policy urges all educational
12 institutions to publicly denounce each act of
13 hatred and hostility against racial, ethnic and
14 religious minorities, women and individuals with
15 disabilities. It also calls for the university to
16 report incidents to the Commission and law
17 enforcement agencies; and to vigorously enforce the
18 law against perpetrators. It is our hope that the
19 report will be used as a guide in the development
20 of a pluralistic academic environment, free of
21 harassment, intimidation, tension and violence.
22 The report is not the conclusion of a process, but
23 rather the beginning of a joint effort with the
24 higher education community to achieve equal
25 employment and educational opportunities.

1 Within the department, the unit with
2 primary responsibility for intervention and
3 -- monitoring such incidents is the Community Services
4 Bureau. It is my recollection that prior to fiscal
5 --- year 1988, the quarterly reports of this Bureau to
6 the Michigan Civil Rights Commission would only
7 .. infrequently include descriptions of staff
8 involvement in a hate crimes or other forms of
9 violence and intimidation motivated by bigotry or
10 prejudice.

11 .. In the summer of 1989, however, the
12 --- Bureau Director noted an increase in staff reports
13 in the area and shortly thereafter called for a
14 --- review of monthly reports for the period January, ---
15 1988 to September, 1989 for a more accurate
16 .. determination of the number of incidents. This
17 report yielded very significant information and
18 became a benchmark for future comparison and
19 analysis.

20 .. During this period of 21 months, 24
21 --- incidents were recorded, occurring in 17 cities.
22 In addition, about twenty reports of mediation on
23 .. university campuses and with local police were
24 described. This time period covered, for example,
25 major student unrest at the University of Michigan.

1 Beginning two years ago; the Community
2 Services bureau instituted a new process including
3 a staff form on a specific incident of tension and
4 violence and on which to provide agency leadership
5 and staff-colleagues-an update or status report.
6 Results of a cumulative summary for fiscal year
7 1990, specifically October 1, 1989 - September 30,
8 1990, could then be considered in the context of
9 figures for the previous 21 months. Further,
10 continuance of this reporting process will allow
11 for a two year comparison in the Fall of 1991, at
12 the conclusion of fiscal year 1991 on September 30.

13 In addition to submitting formal
14 reports on incidents, staff report on a monthly
15 basis other activities and community problems in
16 which their mediation and negotiation skills are
17 necessary. Actually, a considerable amount of
18 Bureau staff time is spent listening to expressions
19 of civil rights related concerns by individuals and
20 groups and then providing them with appropriate
21 resolution or referral. Oftentimes these
22 discussions take place by telephone and are
23 dispensed with quickly.

24 I mention this because staff efforts in
25 this area are oftentimes preventive of more

1 full-blown, future incidents of tension and
2 violence. Early collaboration with law enforcement
3 officers, local housing authorities, school
4 officials, community leaders, employers and parents
5 can sometimes prevent the escalation of a
6 misunderstanding or insensitivity into a more
7 formal act of tension or violence. During the past
8 three months, Bureau staff have mediated in about
9 twenty problems across the state.

10 Before I describe any findings from our
11 cumulative incident summaries, I wish to detail a
12 major caveat. In no way is the Michigan Department
13 of Civil Rioghts claiming to have information on
14 every hate bias incident committed in this state.
15 Rather our reports are on those in which staff have
16 been available to intervene in some manner.
17 Ofttimes a Bureau staff person takes the initiative
18 upon hearing of a community problem in his or her
19 geographical jurisdiction. Oftentimes civic and
20 community leaders, as well as residents request the
21 Department's involvement. And occasionally staff
22 are specifically asked to look into a specific
23 matter by the Commission, by myself, or the
24 Director of Public Information or the Bureau
25 persons. By and large this aspect of our agency's

1 work is conducted by District executives who are
 2 employed in District Offices around the State and
 3 who are responsible for preventive civil rights-
 4 programming in specific counties.

5 Now to a brief summary of staff
 6 involvement, in these incidents: From January of
 7 1988 to September 1989, twenty-four incidents were
 8 reported, with seven acts of racial slurs and
 9 graffiti placed on private property and four cross
 10 burnings. Harassment of neighbors of racial and
 11 ethnic descent, Indian Fishing Treaty Rights, and
 12 Assault and Battery motivated by racism accounted
 13 for an additional six reports. One account of
 14 vandalism by skinheads and two employment related
 15 situations were reported.

16 The twenty-four incidents occurred in
 17 ten counties, with four counties having one each,
 18 three having two, one having four, and two having
 19 five; specifically Oakland and Wayne County.

20 During fiscal year 1990, fifty-nine
 21 incidents were reported in twenty-seven counties.

22 There was one incident reported in each of fifteen
 23 counties; five in two counties; three in four
 24 counties; and in three other counties, there were
 25 four, seven and eleven incidents recorded.

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Intensity of racial hatred was clearly manifested in Michigan communities during this fiscal year. Racial incidents of verbal and physical harassment and assault, racial slurs including through the media, and vandalism motivated by racism and bigotry accounted for thirty-two or fifty percent of the total. Two deaths were reported; and there was one incident with a skinhead. Tension and violence related to housing, particularly for migrant farm workers accounted for five reports. Incidents on four campuses (including several protests) and in two K-12 schools were also reported.

Although fiscal year 1991 is not yet concluded, there have been fifteen Bureau staff reports submitted for three fourths of this year. Kent County and Wayne County account for three incidents each; and Berrien and Muskegon each had two. In all, Bureau staff have intervened in incidents in eight counties.

Reports during this fiscal year include two deaths and one arson; again, verbal and physical harassment and assault account for the majority, or twenty-seven percent; with vandalism and arson being included as another twenty percent.

1 It is important to note that during
2 this reporting cycle there has been an increase in
3 number of incidents involving youth.

4 It is impossible to summarize more than
5 one hundred incidents during my verbal
6 presentation; but it be -- I would encourage you to
7 carefully review the appendices that I have
8 submitted for your review for a complete
9 description of the incidents reported during the
10 past two fiscal years. Suffice it to say, however,
11 that they include death at the hands of a police
12 officer, a middle aged person, a youth of a
13 different race; gang rowdiness and outright
14 violence; cross burnings; citizen pressure exerted
15 on local governments to related to prevent housing
16 and services to a specific ethnic minority;
17 leafletting of hate literature and verbal slurs on
18 the airwaves; arson and physical damage to
19 property; for example, the spray-painting of racial
20 slurs; and physical assaults. No area of the state
21 or public sector is immune. Incidents are
22 occurring in neighborhoods; public facilities such
23 as malls; movies and restaurants; the workplace;
24 and schools and colleges.

25 I know that the Advisory Committee is..

1 interested in the perceived motivation for such
2 activity. If there were easy answers, then the
3 number of incidents would not be on the increase.
4 If this were the case appropriate and adequate
5 steps should have and could have been put in place
6 for prevention. From my perspective, however,
7 there are several simple motivations.

8 For one thing, people of color are
9 increasing in numbers at a rapid rate and there is
10 a related sense of loss of power and authority,
11 particularly on the part of the white males as they
12 perceive an erosion in their base of dominance and
13 control in this country. It is almost too
14 simplistic an explanation, but the ramifications
15 are deep and profound. I am among those who
16 believe that the surge in campus racism can be
17 attributed to this very fact.

18 Secondly, there appears to be tacit
19 approval, again, to display prejudice and racism in
20 overt ways. There is a belief in the minority
21 community that more and more people act as if they
22 will be immune from punishment.

23 A final reason relates directly to
24 economics in this country. As we have moved into
25 the 1990's, there are fewer and fewer job

1 opportunities, not only in Michigan, but across the
2 nation; and more and more people regardless of
3 previous socio-economic and educational status are
4 either standing in unemployment lines or are
5 underemployed in positions which can be
6 frustrating. The public misconception about
7 affirmative action -- associated with the term
8 "quotas" has implied to white America that any and
9 -- all people of color who are employed are, first of
10 all in jobs which whites should have and secondly
11 were only available to the racial and ethnic
12 minorities because of lowered standards. People of
13 color, women and persons with disabilities
14 instinctively become the scape-goat; and once
15 -- again, the victim is blamed.

16 I have several suggestions on how such
17 -- hate activities might be prevented; or at least --
18 lessened. The essential ingredient, however, must
19 be partnerships with the many entities involved in
20 mediating, monitoring and attempting resolution of
21 this mammoth problem.

22 First, active and creative
23 -- collaboration among and between the variety of
24 agencies and organizations which are similarly
25 -- involved in the intervention of incidents or --

1 tension and violence; and a development of a
2 mechanism and process for sharing information on
3 intervention strategies, outcomes and programming
4 plans to prevent future recurrences. For instance
5 the Department is active with the Summit on Race
6 Relations here in Detroit. At some point in time,
7 we must expand this Summit to include prevention
8 measures for the entire state.

9 Two: Development and dissemination of
10 an "Incident Watch" publication which will list the
11 known instances of racial/ethnic hate.

12 Third: Development of an
13 administrative and training scheme for the use of
14 community intervention teams in communities across
15 the state, particularly targeted both in those
16 communities with the highest number of incidents
17 and those with conditions ripe for future
18 occurrences.

19 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: How much more time do
20 you need?

21 MR. CASTILLO: Just a couple more
22 minutes.

23 Four: Development of an educational
24 training module for elementary and secondary
25 schools for use in sensitizing students to the

1 potential for violence and specific methods to
2 avoid such violence.

3 Fifth: Continued cooperation from the
4 public community colleges in the state and between
5 the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and the
6 President's Council -- State universities to
7 promote affirmative action in recruitment and so
8 forth, and the sensitivity training.

9 Sixth: Development and implementation
10 of a police-prosecutor training module to sensitize
11 law enforcement to the handling of hate/violence
12 activities.

13 And finally Seventh: Development and
14 management of preventive programming through a
15 state-wide body, incorporating all those entities
16 with a concern for reducing such incidents.
17 Attached, some of the attachments I have given you
18 is the Commission's Report on Higher Education; a
19 little brochure that we did for use at campuses;
20 and the two reports that I mentioned; and the
21 report for 1990 which is only three quarters of the
22 year.

23 Again, I thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you very much.
25 Questions?

1 DR.- FRAZIER: John, did you list an
2 incident, the death of individual at the hands of
3 law enforcement officers?

4 MR. CASTILLO: Yes.

5 DR. FRAZIER: Was that considered --
6 as an incident or a hate crime?

7 MR. CASTILLO: I believe that was in
8 the western part of the state and is still under
9 investigation.

10 Any time -- go ahead.

11 DR. FRAZIER: Are you, as a part of
12 your agency do you establish a determination hate
13 crime versus civil rights violation; do you have
14 such guidelines?

15 MR. CASTILLO: Not really. -- Any time
16 that an activity goes on -- the answer is:
17 Specifically, no. . Sometimes they are sort of
18 interwound.

19 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Barb? . . .

20 MS. GATTORN: Yes, would you comment on
21 when there is, when verbal intimidation takes
22 place? Would you comment on the conflict between
23 free speech and inciting to riot or any other
24 extreme to that? How do we get at solutions
25 without violating freedom of speech?

1 MR. CASTILLO: The State of Michigan
2 specifically has the intimidation statute -- they
3 have certain elements you have to meet to violate
4 that statute. It is the old argument you learn in
5 law school, you have the right to say what you want
6 to most of the time, but you can't yell fire in a
7 theatre because of the danger you will cause. We
8 use the same analysis here, you have the right to
9 say what you want to, but the legislature has to
10 establish that in certain instances those
11 activities would violate the state intimidation
12 statute.

13 MS. GATTORN: Has that been tested --

14 MR. CASTILLO: I --

15 MS. GATTORN: -- a free speech
16 argument used?

17 MR. CASTILLO: I believe in the Ann
18 Arbor area there is a case pending in Circuit
19 Court, but I don't think there is any decision on
20 that case. Otherwise, I am not aware of any test
21 that has been used across the state, and it has
22 been enforced a number of times.

23 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: The next presenter
24 might deal with that.

25 Larrain?

1 MS. THOMAS: I suppose I shouldn't ask
2 this: But, I want to know if your handout was more
3 specific, than, you know, because I found your
4 report more generalized.

5 MR. CASTILLO: The attachments are the
6 specific reports that are referred to.

7 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: There is only one
8 copy.

9 MR. CASTILLO: If you want more on top
10 of that, we can provide that.

11 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Castillo, how has your
12 budget fared with the round of State cuts and if
13 you know how have the budgets of Civil Rights
14 Departments in other states fared?

15 MR. CASTILLO: Well, I guess it is not
16 a secret that the State of Michigan is in a
17 financial problem, not only the State of Michigan,
18 but in California, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania; in
19 fact I just came back from the International
20 Association of Professional Human Rights Agencies,
21 and the topic of most of those which are the
22 counterparts to ours and other states, the topic in
23 most of those other departments and state agencies
24 and local agencies are doing more with less. And
25 it is not a problem particularly with the State of

1 Michigan but across this country, because of the
2 economic condition. The Department like all other
3 State Departments are suffering budget cuts, that
4 is correct.

5 MR. MARTIN: The Civil Rights
6 Department hasn't taken more than your fair share?

7 MR. CASTILLO: We took nine point two
8 percent like all other state departments. The
9 budget process for next year is still in the
10 legislature.

11 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Joan?

12 MS. WEBKAMIGAD: With the budget
13 constraints, have you projected how long it will
14 take for a complaint to be investigated?

15 MR. CASTILLO: One of the things I have
16 a big concern about is effectiveness and efficiency
17 and the speed with which we process complaints.
18 And I would like to say that over the last three
19 years we have brought our caseload down and we
20 continue to bring it down. When we looked at the
21 reports for the last six months we will bring them
22 down again in the next six months.

23 MS. WEBKAMIGAD: There is a rumor going
24 around that the Civil Rights Department will be
25 eliminated?

1 MR. CASTILLO: I have not heard that
2 rumor. But, to eliminate the Civil Rights
3 Commission, you would have to amend the
4 constitution, because it is a constitutionally
5 created agency. I don't see any effort to amend
6 the constitution.

7 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: That is the only
8 state department in state government that is
9 mandated by the Constitution.

10 MR. CASTILLO: I have not heard that
11 rumor.

12 MS. WEBKAMIGAD: There is a rumor.

13 MR. CASTILLO: As you can see, I am not
14 worried.

15 MR. GORDON: Do you have data to
16 indicate whether the activity, the hate crimes are
17 conducted on a random basis by individuals or
18 whether it is being sponsored by any particular
19 organized hate groups or organizations?

20 MR. COSTILLO: I don't think it is
21 being conducted by any groups out there, but there
22 are other individuals that will be testifying that
23 may disagree with me. But, the information I have
24 seen, I would say, no. It is just happening out
25 there. I would have to say it is more a tone of

1 the times more than any that I can say this group
2 or that group.

3 MR. GORDON: How about the age of the
4 perpetrator, is there any grouping?

5 MR. CASTILLO: That is something that
6 we can go back and pull out. We do not have that
7 type of statistics other than lately we have seen
8 an increase of that type of activity by more youth
9 than in the past, but we haven't kept an age
10 category.

11 MR. GORDON: One more question, I have,
12 actually a couple. Have you noticed whether the
13 hate crimes are exclusively perpetrated against
14 ethnic and religious minorities or is there hate
15 crime going the other way too, perpetrated by
16 religious and --

17 MR. CASTILLO: I would say that
18 majority of them are just the way you stated it.
19 We have seen a couple of incidents just starting to
20 go the other way, specifically in the Holland area
21 and I believe there was one incident here in
22 Detroit. We are starting to see the other
23 movement.

24 MR. GORDON: Finally, do you consider
25 intimidation or hate -- is there in your

1 definition, do you track against women or
2 handicappers considered intimidation or hate crime?

3 MR. CASTILLO: The incidents we had
4 reported, we don't have any as to handicappers. We
5 have not categorized men and women, so I would have
6 to go back and look at that; that I don't have.

7 MR. KOBRAK: Are there communities that
8 have been doing a particularly effective job in
9 dealing with hate crimes that have occurred; if so,
10 what did they do?

11 MR. CASTILLO: First of all, I would
12 like to, at least the incidents we have been
13 involved in most of the police departments, our
14 main concern is there is a hate type crime, the
15 police departments go in there investigate, and if
16 there is a need for appropriate action specifically
17 under the intimidation statute, that there is a
18 process, and they do that. I am glad to say, that
19 most police departments; I don't know whether they
20 are doing it on their own or because we are
21 watching over their shoulder, have a pretty good
22 track record.

23 I know that the Detroit community has
24 established the Task Force that is looking into
25 this issue. And I don't want to go into what they

are going to do. I am certain that you will have a person who will be talking to that. I know that in the northern part of Detroit there are a few committees. There are a few, but I would say that is across the state. I do believe that there is a type of meaningful -- just because we have seen the rise.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay, John. Thank you very much.

Okay. Our next presenter is Senator Dave Honigman. Senator Honigman represents the 17th District, here in Michigan and he also sponsored the Michigan Ethnic Intimidation Act. Some of the questions we were asking of John, --

SENATOR HONIGMAN:-- I might be able to answer.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Good to see you.

SENATOR HONIGMAN:-- Good to see you, too.

Let me tell you a little about what this law does. I introduced the law in 1988. And it was approved by the Legislature in December of 1989 -- in December of 1988, and it went into effect on November 1 of 1989. So we have a couple of years of experience with it. The law basically

11

1 says this: if you commit a battery or assaultive
2 type crime or property damage or defacing and that
3 was motivated by the race or ethnicity or religion
4 or national origin of the victim, or handicap, or
5 gender; you would trigger the Statute. So, you
6 have to commit basically, what is already a crime
7 plus have the illicit ---one of the illicit motives
8 to the statute to trigger it. It provides for a
9 penalty, a two year felony and a treble damage as
10 civil remedy.

11 I oddly, the two year felony has
12 received most of the attention. I personally
13 regard the treble damages under the civil remedy,
14 potentially the most potent weapon against hate
15 crime. I got the idea for that -- that is what
16 makes the Michigan statute unique, by the way.
17 This was based on an Anti-Defamation League Statute
18 that has been adopted, I think, at last I counted
19 in about twenty-one states. Might be a few more by
20 now. And of course there is a Federal Criminal
21 Civil Rights statute somewhat similar to that as
22 well. None of them have the treble damage civil
23 remedy. I got the idea for that by reading an
24 article about a case brought under the Federal
25 Civil Rights statutes, one of the civil statutes

1 against the Alabama Ku Klux Klan which had
2 kidnapped a young black man and lynched him. And
3 there was action bought by the Alabama NAACP and
4 the young man's family after his death to sue the
5 Klan and to recover damages. In the civil suit
6 they recovered a seven million dollar judgement
7 against the Klan in Alabama. And they used that
8 judgment to seize, the U.S. Marshal seized all of
9 the assets of the Klan, the businesses they
10 laundered money through, cars, guns and I
11 understand, even the hoods; I don't know who would
12 want them. Collectors of hate memorabilia or
13 something and sold them and they dismantled the
14 very infrastructure of the hate group. And as some
15 of the members of the Klan were going to prison,
16 they remarked that it was not so much they were
17 going to prison that they regretted but they were
18 curious more than about going to prison, about the
19 fact that all of their assets had been seized and
20 sold. The black community in Alabama said that
21 they regarded this as the greatest victory against
22 hate groups since the passage of the '64 Civil
23 Rights Act. I guess there are always more hateful
24 people to fill the spots, but if they don't have
25 this infrastructure to support them, specially when

1 they are an organized group, it gives them a good
2 death blow. So -- the treble damage of civil
3 damages have not been invoked yet. --I am waiting
4 for some enterprising attorney to discover that.
5 Most of the incidents I am aware of that have been
6 prosecuted under the Statute involve individual
7 acts. As a matter of fact I know of no group
8 activity, other than maybe a couple of hoodlums, no
9 organized hate groups have been prosecuted under
10 the Statute as yet.

11 I will be introducing legislation soon
12 to change and to amend the law. There are a couple
13 of shortcuts which I attribute to the Senate which
14 amended the statute from what I introduced it. As
15 originally introduced I think a two year felony is
16 too little. As originally introduced, the problem
17 with that is this: Let's -- we had an incident
18 recently that you talked about in Ann Arbor, where
19 there was a free speech challenge, by the way where
20 a white man burned down the house of a black family
21 and during the course of the incident afterward,
22 the man who -- the arsonist stated he did it
23 because he didn't want blacks in the neighborhood.
24 So it was quite clear it was motivated by the race
25 of the arson victim. And he was indeed charged

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under the Ethnic Intimidation Statute but also under the arson statute as well. Under the Arson Statute carries a much higher penalty than the Ethnic Intimidation Statute of two years. But oddly enough it requires everything that is required for arson, all of the elements of arson plus further elements that are supposed to make the crime even worse than ordinary arson. As originally introduced it was a two year add-on that said whatever the penalty for the underlying crime is plus up to two years more, if you are guilty of ethnic intimidation. The theory that the element of the racial or other -- aggravates the crime. Unfortunately in the last days of December this was passed in the Senate. I was in the House of Representatives. The Senate changed it, the last day and I had to accept it or it would have died. I figured some significant steps forward was better than perfection. So I will introduce legislation when we go back into session in the fall to make it a two year add-on instead. Sexual orientation was also one of the categories that would trigger the statute that was also taken out by the Senate. We had also tried to add that on as well.

Let me talk a bit since there has been

1 some concern about the free speech, is there a
2 violation of the First Amendment by the statute in
3 any way. The answer is: No. The District Court
4 Judge in the case I just described to you in
5 Washtenaw County ruled that it did -- wasn't a
6 constitutional violation of the First Amendment on
7 the theory that the statute prohibited speech that
8 did not fall in the Fighting Words Doctrine on
9 other exceptions to the First Amendment. The
10 Washtenaw Circuit Court overturned the decision and
11 held correctly, I think, that while it would be
12 true that, it is my view anyway that a racial slur
13 is protected by the First Amendment. There have
14 been cases that say so. I suppose in some
15 circumstances, it could amount to fighting words,
16 although I don't believe the Fighting Words
17 Doctrine has been invoked in twenty or thirty
18 years, and I think even with the exceptions, it
19 still stands. The intent of the statute was not to
20 make mere speech or racial slurs, however offensive
21 they may be, to be criminal conduct. We have to
22 allow the country's people to say whatever they
23 want, no matter how offensive, and the remedy for
24 that is little words in response. The statute
25 expressly says that you must commit either an

1 offensive touching or battery of some kind, in
2 other words, threaten to commit or avoid a property
3 damage you have to injure your property or deface
4 it, which would be malicious destruction of
5 property, a criminal act involving conduct, and not
6 a speech or threaten to do one of those things.

7 For instance, if you, where there is a reasonable
8 liklihood that the harm will occur that is really
9 the definition of an assault. - For instance if you
10 make a bomb threat even though you didn't do
11 anything but utter words that would be illegal;
12 certain things like that. Assault, the very
13 definition of assault is threatened harm. I know
14 some attorneys on the panel, but an interesting
15 case we all learned about in law school where
16 somebody put a finger in the back of the person and
17 put him in reasonable fear to reasonably believe it
18 was a gun, again, that is an assault.

19 So it really, the ethnic intimidation
20 statute is not triggered by mere speech. It is
21 triggered by classical conduct, deemed to be a
22 crime and has been deemed to be a crime for a long
23 time.

24 Now, words of course can be evidence of
25 the motive that animated the conduct and that is

1 true in all crimes, of course. The only way you
2 know the motive or the intent of the defendant is
3 as evidenced either by words or conduct. We cannot
4 pierce into the consciousness of the person other
5 than as their thoughts are revealed by words or
6 conduct. So to that degree words or conduct are
7 relevant, but insofar as they reveal motive and you
8 still require motive plus concrete conduct. So I
9 don't think there is any free speech problem. The
10 statute has been upheld in many other states and
11 many times by Federal courts including the U.S.
12 Supreme Court that held it did not violate the
13 First Amendment, mostly because it really does not
14 proscribe by its literal language, free speech. It
15 has been suggested and perhaps it ought to cover
16 speech, but I didn't think that should be the case
17 and I don't think the legislature would agree with
18 that either.

19 I checked around to see what kind of --
20 every time someone is charged under the statute the
21 press kind of picks it up. So you are not really
22 sure it has the appearance of being enforced a lot.
23 But in fact it may not be applied in a vast
24 quantity of cases. I found that in Wayne County,
25 for instance, I had my office call the Prosecutor's

1 Office -- this was no scientific study and they
2 told me they have never applied oddly in Wayne
3 County where a lot of the incidents I suspect
4 occur, the Ethnic Intimidation Statute. In one
5 case only were they about to charge and it was
6 taken over by the federal authorities for
7 prosecution by them.

8 In Macomb County there have been eleven
9 incidents where charges have been brought under it
10 and in Oakland, I have not been able to find out
11 the exact numbers. But there have been dozens. In
12 Oakland County, it has received the most intense
13 use. Dick Thompson as a matter of fact, the
14 Oakland County Prosecutor was the first person to
15 use the law right after it went into effect when a
16 mixed race young couple was attacked in a
17 convenience store, I think it was 7-11, by some
18 white people who were mad that people of different
19 races were friends, I guess. That was the first
20 incidence which was invoked in Oakland County. It
21 has been invoked for anti-semitic incidents in
22 Oakland County. One time a guy, young man was
23 fired, I think it was from a drug store and the
24 owner of the drug store was Jewish, and he wrote on
25 the wall anti-semitic slurs of some kind. There

1 has been swastika incidents where it has been
2 invoked. Apparently, it is not going to be invoked
3 in the recent incident that I read about where a
4 young black man was just in a parking garage in
5 Birmingham and a white doctor thought he was going
6 to steal his car, because he was black. Who knows
7 what the truth is. Of course, that remains to be
8 tried. The doctor feels that the young man was
9 trying to steal the car. I find that hard to
10 believe. We will see what happens in that case.
11 There has, as I said there have been no instances
12 where hate groups have been prosecuted under the
13 law. Of course, I have not heard as recently many
14 terrible incidents involving hate groups. There was
15 an occasional cross burning on lawns. There were
16 some prosecutions under the ethnic intimidation law
17 but I don't know if they were isolated, if they
18 were individual actors. There is a suspicion that
19 they weren't because they were in the Brighton area
20 where a lot of Klan activity is centered. As you
21 probably know the Grand Dragon of the Klan, I don't
22 know if he still lives there, Robert Miles --

23 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: He moved to Arizona

24 SENATOR HONIGMAN: He moved, but it

25 happened in the area and there is suspicion it was

1 somehow connected to that. Only individuals were
2 prosecuted.

3 That is about it. Any questions?

4 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any questions of
5 Senator Honigman?

6 MS. THOMAS: Dave. It is so nice to
7 see you again.

8 SENATOR HONIGMAN: Thank you.

9 MS. THOMAS: What motivated you to
10 sponsor this law?

11 SENATOR HONIGMAN: It wasn't any one
12 incident. I was involved in the civil rights
13 movement, when I was younger and I had a commitment
14 to civil rights values and things. I am on the
15 board of the Anti-Defamation League in Michigan and
16 was familiar -- Dick Lobenthal sent me a copy of
17 the statute, and said I think this is a good idea.
18 I thought it was also. There were some, in
19 addition, very salient issues in the news at the
20 time such as the Vincent Chin case where an
21 Asian-American was beaten to death by some irate
22 factory workers who were upset about the inroads
23 that Japanese competition was making, in the auto
24 industry. They attacked this young Asian man. But
25 it wasn't really any one incident that motivated me

1 to do it just the general area. I used to practice
2 somewhat in this area of law.

3 MS. GATTORN: With the incident out in
4 the Birmingham high school, I haven't read but --

5 SENATOR HONIGMAN: The skinhead
6 incidents?

7 MS. GATTORN: The skinhead incidents.
8 Since this is an interest of yours, have you or do
9 you have information, which would lead you to think
10 that that continues to be a problem in schools out
11 in Birmingham?

12 SENATOR HONIGMAN: You know, that has
13 kind of died down in the last couple of years.
14 There was a flurry of incidents a few years ago,
15 but I go into high schools to speak, where kids are
16 involved. I have not seen any evidence of it
17 whatsoever. That doesn't mean it isn't any; it is
18 certainly more subdued.

19 MS. GATTORN: And those were occurring
20 around the time your law was passed?

21 SENATOR HONIGMAN: Yes.

22 MS. GATTORN: Because they did try the
23 kids under --

24 SENATOR HONIGMAN: Yes. That is true.
25 Do you think that your law then in

1 retrospect has had some effect on the diminution of
2 those activities?

3 SENATOR HONIGMAN: I think it has, of
4 course, those activities would have been illegal
5 anyway. But I think the ethnic intimidation
6 statute does a couple of things. Number one, it
7 sends a message that the State and the people of
8 Michigan regard these crimes to be particularly
9 reprehensible. I am asked why should we punish
10 these crimes, more so, why is assault on a black
11 man by a person wearing a white hood worse to the
12 victim, for instance, than being assaulted just as
13 badly just as a result of impulsive or gratuitous
14 violence or satanism or whatever? I think the
15 answer is this: Of course, to the individual
16 victim it probably doesn't make much difference.
17 When someone is assaulted or their house is burned
18 down or is victim of a crime because of their race
19 or religion or national origin, not only is the
20 individual who is the victim of the crime
21 terrorized, but the whole class of people of which
22 the victim is a member is terrorized. And it tears
23 apart the fabric of society in a way that ordinary
24 crime does not. It may invoke memories of past
25 oppression.

1 In a Jewish neighborhood a couple of
2 years ago, they were putting swastikas all over the
3 place and there were a lot of Holocaust survivors.
4 When black people are victimized it invokes terrors
5 of the past experiences of oppression that they
6 have experienced as a group. It is the same reason
7 that we punish for instance, felony firearm more.
8 It poses a hazard or conspiracy, even though the
9 victims are injured no worse in a conspiracy than
10 by a criminal acting alone, the theory behind
11 touching on the conspiracy is that the presence of
12 that the infrastructure and organized group
13 supporting the criminal activity creates a greater
14 danger to society. And that is the same theory as
15 to hate crime. It is a greater danger to the
16 social fabric than ordinary crime. Not that
17 ordinary crime isn't terrible too, but this poses,
18 ethnic or hate crimes pose special risks to the
19 social fabric.

20 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Mr. Gordon.

21 MR. GORDON: Has the state undertaken
22 any activities to inform and train Prosecutors in
23 the use of the statute?

24 SENATOR HONIGMAN: Not that I know of,
25 but Prosecutors wouldn't have any problem

1 understanding the law especially since it is
2 triggered, you have to commit what is already a
3 crime and motivated by illicit motives. It would
4 be, it is, it would be nice to do a study. I don't
5 know if John has data on this. I think Dave Gubow
6 is about to introduce a bill to compile data on
7 hate crimes. Maybe the Civil Rights Department is
8 doing that to some degree. It would be nice to
9 take a look at the pattern of enforcement. We only
10 know -- there is no formal collection of data.

11 MR. GORDON: You answered my next
12 question.

13 MR. KÖBRAK: What has the reaction been
14 in your senatorial District to your sponsorship of
15 the Act?

16 SENATOR HONIGMAN: Mostly good. My --
17 remember I have only been in the Senate for about 6
18 months. I was in the House. In West Bloomfield,
19 it is like a melting pot, a very tolerant
20 community, quite good. I know Asian Americans have
21 expressed gratitude, after the Vincent Chin case.
22 Jewish people like it. Black people like it. I
23 have got, of course, a couple of pieces of hate
24 anti-semitic slurs conducted at me. Overall it is
25 a good reception. The Detroit News editorialized

1 against the Statute, but that was no big deal. You
2 know, it is not a terrible attack. They just
3 disagreed. Nothing, nothing, nothing no huge
4 outcry, just occasionally there is some small flow
5 of letters opposed to it, but not necessarily from
6 my District by the way, from all over the place.
7 Mostly it has met with approval.

8 MR. KOBRAK: It did not become an
9 election issue?

10 SENATOR HONIGMAN: No.

11 MR. GORDON: What are the prospects on
12 the amendments that you hope to introduce?

13 SENATOR HONIGMAN: I would say good,
14 very good.

15 I don't know about the sexual
16 orientation. That is somewhat controversial. But
17 as far as making it a two year add-on, I think
18 quite good.

19 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: One more question.
20 Barb?

21 MS. GATTORN: I -- I am sorry. I
22 know what it is. Do you have a copy of that
23 Detroit News editorial?

24 SENATOR HONIGMAN: Sure.

25 There were quite a few editorials in

1 favor of that. That was the only one --

2 MS. GATTORN: If you have a copy, if
3 you could send it to the staff in Chicago as just
4 part of our --

5 SENATOR HONIGMAN: I will send you all
6 of them. It was heavily editorialized.

7 MS. GATTORN: It may help.

8 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Senator, thank you
9 very much. Why don't we take a break, until 10:45.

10 (Short Break)

11 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Can we get started?
12 Okay. We are right on time.

13 Your next presenter will be N. Charles
14 Anderson.

15 Mr. Anderson is President of the
16 Detroit Urban League.

17 MR. N. CHARLES ANDERSON: Thank you,
18 Mr. Chairman. Mr. Gibson, and other honorable
19 members of this Panel: As indicated I am the
20 President of the Detroit Urban league, an
21 organization that has been in this community since
22 1916. So we are celebrating our seventy-sixth
23 anniversary as an agency in Detroit and are
24 affiliated with the National Urban League, one of
25 one hundred and thirteen Urban League affiliates

1 in the country. I am pleased to have the
2 opportunity to testify this morning. The National
3 Urban League Conference is about to start in
4 Atlanta and some of my colleagues have preceded me
5 there. I wanted to stay behind and give this
6 testimony and have the opportunity to be a part of
7 today's proceedings.

8 Racism and hate are very real problems
9 in Michigan as well as in these United States. And
10 to deny this fact and state otherwise tends to
11 stick it out like the heads in the sands of life.
12 For years now many people in our country have been
13 working to eliminate racism, and many problems
14 caused within our society. However, it seems for
15 whatever reasons, if we make one step forward ...
16 something happens to take us back a few paces.
17 Certainly, I do not need to lecture this honorable
18 body of the serious problems we have facing us,
19 denial of jobs, access to housing and decent
20 education, discrimination and racial hatred have
21 plagued African-Americans constantly in these
22 United States. The only time real racial progress
23 has been made in our country is when there has been
24 positive leadership in action at the federal level.

25 I guess, at this point I would indicate

1 that as I continue to testify I won't bore the
2 Commission with facts and statistics about what has
3 happened because I think other people are doing
4 that. But I want, if I may attempt to concentrate
5 on what I believe are some of the causes for racial
6 hatred and racial incidents that we see occurring
7 in our community.

8 The positive leadership in action, that
9 was exhibited by President Lincoln when he signed
10 the Emancipation Proclamation, by President Truman
11 when he signed the Executive Order integrating the
12 armed services, positive leadership by President
13 Lyndon Johnson who led the fight for the passage of
14 the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting
15 Rights Act and the positive leadership by President
16 Carter, who in his presidency as he appointed
17 record numbers of African-Americans and other
18 minorities to judgeships and other positions of
19 responsibility is the type of leadership that I am
20 referring to. All of these actions and more did
21 much to demonstrate to all in our society that we
22 must put aside racial stereotypes and accept every
23 American as an equal partner in moving this nation
24 forward. As in every business and even on sports
25 teams, there must be leadership from the top to set

1 examples for the rest of the team to follow. If
2 there are blatant racial acts and attacks in our
3 cities and country met with nothing but silence by
4 our leaders then we give a subtle approval to the
5 racists in our society. This silence permits the
6 racists to feel more secure in fact and even become
7 more bold in these attacks on minorities in our
8 communities. Therefore, it is our opinion that
9 there has been a rise in racial hate crimes in
10 Michigan as well as in America. Furthermore, it is
11 our opinion that much of this increase in hate
12 crime has been somewhat encouraged by the lack of
13 presidential leadership and the tacit approval of
14 such actions. In the 1990 -- in 1980 rather, the
15 presidential election brought forth a number of
16 issues and platforms that promoted a return to
17 policies we worked so hard to erase. Code words
18 such as states rights, proposals to give tax
19 credits to schools and colleges that openly
20 discriminate were among those campaign issues that
21 seemingly urged us back to what one presidential
22 candidate, Ronald Reagan, called the "good old
23 days". After the election the constant attacks on
24 civil rights programs and institutions signaled to
25 the bigots and racists among us, that they become

1 at all costs, that civil rights programs were fair
2 game for dismantling and outright eliminating. Of
3 course, it did not take the Supreme Court long to
4 get into the act. The various leaders and
5 institutions that we had counted on to move us
6 forward in eradicating racism from every vestige of
7 our society was now suddenly against us. Now,
8 don't get me wrong, we believe that racism is
9 caused by many reasons in our society. Top among
10 those, of course, are ignorance and negative racial
11 stereotypes, but still the issue for us to focus on
12 is leadership. The kind of leadership or lack
13 thereof that comes from the top. The kind of
14 leadership that did not come from President Reagan
15 when numerous racial incidents began to plague our
16 nation in the early 80's. When the problems arose
17 in Forsythe County, Georgia or the racial mob
18 killings occurring in New York, the President was
19 conspicuous by his loud silence. All he really
20 needed to do initially was to condemn the very
21 public and racial incidents. Instead he chose not
22 to say anything, giving sanctuary and tacit
23 approval to racists everywhere in America including
24 Michigan and Detroit. Clearly the records will
25 show that hate crime did rise significantly

1 following the 1980 election to the present and the
2 current president has not done much to turn around
3 this trend since he had exploited the Willie Horton
4 issue during his presidential campaign in 1988, and
5 his constant labeling of attempts to pass Civil
6 Rights Bills in 1990 and 1991 as quota bills.
7 Presidential leadership has not taken us forward in
8 race relations in America but has taken us back to
9 the point where we are again holding public
10 hearings on the rise of hate crime.

11 If I may defer for a moment from what
12 written testimony I prepared. Just this week when
13 I read Newsweek Magazine, there is a short article
14 about the preparation of the 1992 presidential
15 campaign. And it indicates that the 1992
16 Presidential campaign, and it indicated that the
17 1992 Presidential strategy labeled by the White
18 House the KKK strategy. Meaning that K stands for
19 Kuwait. One K stands for quotas; and the other K
20 stands for crime. It is interesting that
21 understanding what the KKK symbolizes in our
22 community that the White House would now use that
23 as a part of their strategy and describing the
24 strategy in 1992. As you listen to the testimony
25 here and elsewhere in the State, I urge you to

1 advocate to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and
2 to the President that they speak out vigorously
3 against racism and racial acts whenever and
4 wherever they occur in our community. Our leaders
5 up to and including the President must soften the
6 inflammatory rhetoric in election campaigns that
7 promote and inflame racism. And we must
8 aggressively investigate -- promote -- I am sorry
9 we must investigate, arrest and prosecute those who
10 cause hate and/or racial crimes.

11 Finally we must pass the Civil Rights
12 Act of 1991. This is not a quota bill but a very
13 important step to moving this nation forward.

14 Mr. Chairman and honorable commission I
15 want to thank you for the opportunity to testify.
16 I would certainly attempt to answer any questions
17 if you have them of me.

18 DR. FRAZIER: I would ask if your
19 organization has been involved in any tangible way
20 either dialoguing with people within the community
21 concerning the recent events that have occurred
22 here in the City?

23 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, and the Urban
24 League, Dr. Frazier is involved in a number of
25 coalitions and action to deal with racial hatred

1 and crime. For example, we are a part of a
2 coalition that is spearheaded by the U.S. Justice
3 Department, Office of Community Relations where
4 there has been instituted a 800 number for the
5 reporting of crime. So just yesterday I think I
6 had a conversation over the phone with two people
7 from Ferndale regarding incidents and efforts are
8 being made in that community as to the passage of
9 the Civil Rights Bill -- Ordinance in Ferndale. So
10 we are involved in issues as these indicated and
11 others as well.

12 DR. FRAZIER: What about the City of
13 Detroit: Have you been approached or become
14 involved in efforts given the proliferation of
15 events we have been reading about recently, to your
16 knowledge?

17 MR. ANDERSON: I think the incidents I
18 have referenced are things that have been ongoing
19 in this community. There are numerous committees,
20 The U. S. Justice Committee, The NAACP and the
21 Urban League in their continuing efforts are all
22 things that have been ongoing in the City of
23 Detroit.

24 I think the City of Detroit could be
25 considered a little further ahead in terms of

1 people being organized and in a position to respond
2 to incidents of racial hatred that may occur in the
3 city.

4 MS. GATTORN: Just following up on
5 this: do staff members or volunteer members of the
6 Urban League physically go out --

7 MR. ANDERSON: Yes.

8 MS. GATTORN: -- Into other suburbs
9 and do forums such as this?

10 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, absolutely;
11 absolutely.

12 MS. GATTORN: How often, would you
13 think, over the period of a year does that occur in
14 a year's period?

15 MR. ANDERSON: I would say, on an
16 average, somewhere -- someone once told me it is
17 better to be invited than to be asked to leave. We
18 are invited often to schools and community
19 activities in suburban communities. For example,
20 Oak Park in a high school where me and other staff
21 have repeatedly gone to on several occasions, at
22 least once or twice a semester. Bloomfield,
23 Birmingham, Southfield schools, Lincoln Park, Hazel
24 Park, we are repeatedly invited to come out during
25 segments of their course work where they are

1 talking about civil rights and issues, and we do
2 participate, physically staff members do including
3 myself.

4 MS. GATTORN: Are you proactive in this
5 area? Do you work for opportunities, for instance
6 in Macomb County area?

7 MR. ANDERSON: Quite honestly, no, we
8 have never looked for opportunities to do anything
9 in Macomb County.

10 Quite frankly as a head of a nonprofit
11 organization and being concerned about how budget
12 cuts affect us we attempt to take care of, as Mr.
13 Gibson knows, take care of the people we are
14 committed to serve through our funding sources.
15 But we do not turn down the opportunity to be of
16 assistance. But I don't think anyone has ever
17 invited us to Macomb County. Oakland County and
18 other outlying areas of Wayne County, we are
19 consistently and regularly invited to participate
20 and assist; and we do so.

21 MS. GATTORN: Would you characterize
22 some of the meetings you have had and the settings
23 that you have had. I presume that race relations
24 is the usual topic; is that right?

25 MR. ANDERSON: Generally race relations

1 or information, or maybe Black History Month or
2 there could be something that they are studying
3 about the civil rights area or to have someone that
4 can actually talk about that, and get away from the
5 textbooks. Those are the kinds of topics that we
6 usually participate in racism, diversity and those
7 kinds of issues.

8 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Jack?

9 MR. MARTIN: Are there any situations
10 where the pooling of information or resources where
11 the NAACP, the Anti Defamation League, the Urban
12 League, in terms of trying to address the problems
13 and get the most bang out of the limited resources?

14 MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Martin, as I
15 indicated earlier in my responses, there are
16 coalitions that exist, meetings at the Urban League
17 or NAACP or New Detroit where we do share. And one
18 of the reasons that we came together a few months
19 ago, for example, was to make sure we try to
20 establish a clearinghouse, so there would be a
21 central place for individuals to call to respond,
22 the Justice Department, 1-800 number is a hate
23 crime reporting, so when people have problems they
24 have some place they can turn to rather than
25 running helter skelter frantically about. I think

1 there is a lot of progress in Detroit towards
2 having mechanisms or ways of dealing with
3 collaborating or solving or investigating criminal
4 activity that may occur as relates to hate crime,
5 et cetera.

6 I think you will hear later from the
7 NAACP. or Justice Department, they would be in a
8 much better position to talk about the incidents of
9 what happened and what is going on.

10 MR. HOLLIDAY: With respect to the
11 leadership silence as you term it, being deafening
12 what is your feeling about the justice system in
13 responding either in a swift or slow manner in
14 prosecuting these kinds of situations?

15 MR. ANDERSON: You know, my
16 characterization, I have no criticism as I listen
17 or gather information. I don't get any direct calls
18 from the FBI or Justice Department. You have to
19 initiate the calls you see the report in the
20 newspapers or talk to other agencies, it appears
21 there is timely response of late by the officials
22 who are responsible, who investigate or deal with
23 the incidents when they do occur.

24 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: I have a question.
25 You spoke of leadership silence from the President.

1 Let's come on down the ladder. What about the
2 State? What about the city?

3 MR. ANDERSON: I think it is important
4 as I was attempting to testify that those who are
5 in leadership positions of responsibility whether
6 it be the Governor, the President or the Mayor when
7 the incidents occur, we should not be slow to
8 respond. I think one of the problems that we have
9 in the community though, in this area, when
10 something happens we expect, we anticipate and
11 realize that the NAACP, the Urban League, New
12 Detroit, the Mayor of Detroit will respond. Where
13 we fail to allow to get off the hook are those
14 Mayors, and leaders in communities like Roseville
15 or Southfield or Bloomfield or wherever, they fail
16 to step forward and make a comment in regards of
17 what kind of community that they have, or what kind
18 of image they want to project. I think by not
19 holding some of them accountable, we know that
20 Joann Watson or Arthur Johnson or Paul Hubbard, N.
21 Charles Anderson will speak out, but where is the
22 Mayor of Oak Park or Ferndale or Southfield or
23 Roseville when something occurs in the community?
24 Where are the political leaders in those
25 communities in terms of taking the steps of

1 initiating or to pass legislation? For example, in
2 Ferndale there is a discussion about a civil rights
3 Ordinance. While it talks about protecting rights
4 of citizens and protective classes, some have
5 selected out the phrase, sexual orientation, to
6 label it a gay bill, a gay rights bill; and there
7 is some concern about whether or not it will be
8 passed. I think everyone needs to speak out when
9 something occurs, no matter who they are. You
10 should not just anticipate and realize that the
11 Mayor of Detroit will speak out, but so should the
12 Mayor of Birmingham --

13 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: That was the essence
14 of the question. You are Black. Joann Watson is
15 Black. Paul Hubbard is Black.

16 MR. ANDERSON: Without a doubt.

17 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: When is it that other
18 racial or ethnic people speak out other than in the
19 City of Detroit?

20 MR. ANDERSON: I am not sure I am
21 catching the question. If something racial happens
22 in Detroit, we all have a responsibility to
23 respond, whether it happens to a Black or it
24 happens to a White.

25 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: When has a white

1 leader responded --

2 MR. ANDERSON: I am not sure I am
3 understanding, Chairman Gibson.

4 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: I will try to get your
5 understanding. You just mentioned everyone speaks
6 out if something racial happens in Detroit.
7 Everyone you have mentioned has been Black. My
8 question is: When is it that something racial
9 happens in Detroit where a white leader in Detroit
10 speaks out?

11 MR. ANDERSON: Except for the President
12 of the Council, Maryann Mahaffey, I don't think I
13 can recall, if I am answering what you are asking,
14 I don't think I can recall a time where the County
15 Exec, for example has made a comment or when the
16 Mayor of Dearborn made a comment. I can't recall
17 any reports where I have read where they have done
18 such.

19 Did I get to what you were asking?

20 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Yes.

21 MR. ANDERSON: Okay.

22 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: .. Any other questions?

23 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you very much.

25 Next we have Carl Breeding here?

1 MS. JOANN WATSON: Earl Rickman is
2 representing Carl Breeding.

3 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: And Joann Watson,
4 Joann is the Executive Director of NAACP Detroit
5 Branch.

6 Joann, do you want to join us?

7 MR. EARL RICKMAN: Earl Rickman,
8 representing Carl Breeding who is the State
9 President of Michigan Conference of NAACP Branches.
10 I will read a statement that Mr. Breeding -- oh, I
11 am Sergeant of Arms for the Michigan State
12 Conference of NAACP. I will read a statement faxed
13 to us from Mr. Breeding in his absence.

14 It is in dealing with the rise of hate
15 crimes in Michigan, Briefing Forums conducted by
16 the Michigan State Advisory Committee to the U.S.
17 Commission on Civil Rights, remarks of Carl L.
18 Breeding, President of Michigan State Conference of
19 NAACP.

20 On the onset I am making an official
21 request for minutes and/or records of this forum
22 and any others held in Michigan. I am also
23 requesting a copy of your conclusions and
24 recommendations. My mailing address is Carl L.
25 Breeding, P.O. Box 361. Jackson Michigan, 49204.

1 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Pardon me. Where is
2 Peter?

3 You can give him the address. He is
4 from Chicago.

5 MR. RICKMAN: Let me share with you in
6 reading into the record two resolutions which were
7 adopted during the 1990 State NAACP Convention.
8 The first one is titled: Racial Justice Institutes
9 on College Campuses.

10 Whereas the incidence of campus racism
11 continues to reflect a grave and disturbing profile
12 in higher educational institutions of the nation
13 and of the State, and

14 Whereas many colleges and universities
15 in the State of Michigan have experienced
16 documented cases of racial violence, white
17 supremists activity and widespread racial tensions
18 and,

19 Whereas studies by the National
20 Institute Against Prejudice and Violence and the
21 National Anti-Klan Networks' Center for Democratic
22 Renewal projects an increase in hate violence and
23 race hatred activities and.

24 Whereas the statistics further
25 recommend long-term systematic change to promote

1 academic environments that institutionalize racial
2 prejudice and appreciation of all cultures within a
3 nonracist, nonoppressive entity.

4 THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that the
5 Michigan State Conference of NAACP supports the
6 development of Racial Justice Institutes in
7 colleges and universities throughout the State with
8 expertise and support resources to insure
9 systematic and long term impact.

10 The second resolution is titled: Bias
11 Crimes and Hate Violence Commission.

12 Whereas there has been a sharp and
13 dangerous rise in the increase of white supremacist
14 groups and the increase of race related violence
15 and racial polarization in the nation and in the
16 State of Michigan and;

17 Whereas efforts to monitor, enforce,
18 investigate and significantly address bias crimes
19 and hate violence have been insufficient and
20 inadequate to meet the needs of Michigan citizens
21 and,

22 Whereas many States have established
23 Bias Commissions with broad ranging powers to halt
24 prevent and intervene in the incidents of race
25 related violence and overt racism acts,

1 Therefore, Be It Resolved that the
2 Michigan State Conference of NAACP supports the
3 establishment of a state wide bias commission
4 appointed by the Governor on behalf of all Michigan
5 citizens.

6 I hope that this briefing forum for the
7 purpose of gathering information on the rise of
8 hate crimes in Michigan is not an effort of
9 futility.

10 What happened to the information
11 contained in your 1982 Report to the U.S.
12 Commission on Civil Rights: Hate Groups in
13 Michigan, A Sham or a Shame now cited as a Michigan
14 Report? Will you please distribute copies of the
15 Michigan report today?

16 Also contained in a restatement of the
17 United States commission on Civil Rights --

18 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Connie? Carol? Are
19 you familiar with this?

20 MS. CAROL LEE-HURLEY: Yes. I don't
21 know if we still have copies in print. I can
22 certainly check and provide them to the Committee.

23 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: What happened to it?

24 MS. HURLEY: Pardon me?

25 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: What happened to it?

1 MS. HURLEY: It would have been
2 distributed by the then staff of the Regional
3 Office in Chicago, presumably to communities and
4 individuals primarily in Michigan.

5 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: You want copies of
6 that?

7 MR. RICKMAN: Yes, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Peter, will you raise
9 your hand?

10 When you finish with your presentation
11 give Peter whatever your requests are and your
12 address.

13 MR. RICKMAN: Yes, sir. I can do that.

14 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay. You can
15 continue.

16 MR. RICKMAN: Also contained in a
17 restatement of the United States Commission on
18 Civil Rights Clearinghouse publication 96,
19 September, September 1990 Intimidation and Violence
20 Racial and Religious Bigotry in America. The
21 Commission on the basis of its conclusion urged the
22 following:

23 One: The criminal justice system
24 especially law enforcement should identify --
25 intensify efforts to insure that the Staff who

1 confront incidents of racial and religious terrorism
2 are broadly representative of the racial, ethnic
3 and religious makeup of the community they serve.

4 Two: The President of the United
5 States should continue to take a lead in denouncing
6 overt acts of racism and anti-semitism and other
7 kinds of religious bigotry as being the epitome of
8 intolerance and irresponsible behavior on the part
9 of an American.

10 Parents, educators, leaders of
11 religious institutions and others -- other opinion
12 makers should work together to develop educational
13 programs designed to produce cognitive and
14 emotional changes with respect to racism,
15 anti-semitism and other kinds of religious
16 bigotry.

17 Four: The Civil Rights Division of the
18 Department of Justice should maintain intense
19 prosecution of racially and religiously motivated
20 violence.

21 The NAACP calls upon the Michigan
22 Advisory Committee to apply the above
23 recommendations to Michigan and make the public
24 aware of same.

25 Finally, I bring to your attention

1 nonviolent acts which are perpetuated against black
2 men, specifically. I call them hate allegations.
3 Many incidents of rape, drug use and other
4 violations have been reported throughout Michigan
5 in which most cases the accuser is a white female
6 and the accused is an affluent and/or influential
7 black male. Some of the black role models have
8 been educators, ministers, public officials,
9 coaches, athletes, corporate managers, physicians,
10 lawyers, law enforcement officers, et cetera.

11 Although an overwhelming majority of
12 the allegations are dismissed as being devoid of
13 merit, the reputations are slandered. Therefore
14 the Michigan State Conference of NAACP calls upon
15 the Advisory Committee to monitor the hate
16 allegations in the State and if warranted, urge a
17 heightened awareness of the threat to civil rights
18 posed by the proponents of racial and religious
19 bigotry.

20 Once again, be sure to forward to me
21 this forum's conclusions and recommendations. That
22 is his statement by Mr. Carl Breeding, President of
23 the Michigan State Conference of the NAACP.

24 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any questions?

25 Jack.

1 MR. MARTIN: Mr. Rickman, could you
2 elaborate on the NAACP state wide Bias Commission,
3 what that would entail; what would be the
4 composition of such a group?

5 MS. JOANN WATSON: I authored the
6 resolution last September of the Michigan State
7 Conference and those of us who were proposing that
8 there be a bias commission, looking at the
9 structure of the Bias Commission in the State of
10 New York, this Commission has a lot of teeth. It
11 is empowered by the Governor and has sweeping
12 authority as relates to law enforcement entities
13 within the State of New York. And also it would
14 bypass bureacracy, you would get action when they
15 have been victimized. It is well marketed and
16 publicized. No one has to wonder where to go if
17 you have been victimized. We propose something
18 like that would be helpful, given there is not one
19 coordinating vehicle at this point.

20 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: What has been the
21 response? Who did you propose that to?

22 MS. WATSON: That was proposed to a
23 Governor who is no longer in office.

24 MR. MARTIN: Would it not duplicate
25 some of the efforts of the Michigan Civil Rights

1 Commission? How would you distinguish between the
2 activities the Commission would pursue and what the
3 Civil Rights Department with their constitutional
4 mandate?

5 MS. WATSON: They certainly have the
6 constitutional mandate. I do not -- they are here.
7 From what I understand the Commission has been
8 among those victimized by severe budget cuts and
9 even prior to the budget cuts, no one entity was
10 receiving all of the information related to bias
11 crime in the State of Michigan. There is no one
12 vehicle for implementing enforcement for basic
13 justice.

14 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Rob and then --

15 MR. GORDON: Mr. Rickman, I want to
16 follow-up some concern about the incidents that you
17 mentioned, in terms of black men.

18 MS. THOMAS: Yes, I do too.

19 MR. GORDON: I want to find out more
20 about that. If you see this as some coordinated
21 effort or whether they are random, who the
22 individuals are, who are making the allegations,
23 and whether there is a greater incidence or greater
24 incidents against black men than white men?

25 MR. RICKMAN: I don't know what

1 specifically what Mr. Breeding was stating. I know
2 there was a forum held in Detroit last year in
3 connection with how the media was deposing Black
4 elected officials and how they harass black public
5 officials. I kind of think that goes hand in hand
6 with the statement read from Mr. Breeding whatever
7 the case may be there seems to be there is a
8 movement out there that any time a black man has
9 elevated himself to a position of authority or
10 power he is somewhat scrutinized under a fine tooth
11 comb. If they find anything they point it out in
12 the media, as opposed to a white counterpart that
13 has attained the same level of achievement.

14 MS. THOMAS: I thought you said
15 something about white females and black males?

16 MR. RICKMAN: That was with regard to
17 the accused rape incident. They are usually
18 against affluent black males.

19 MS. THOMAS: Do you have specific
20 cases?

21 MR. RICKMAN: I am sure Mr. Breeding
22 has them, but I don't have those with me.

23 MS. THOMAS: Could this Committee get
24 them?

25 MR. RICKMAN: I will -- I will talk to

1 Mr. Breeding and get back to this Commission, yes.

2 MS. THOMAS: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Janet?

4 DR. FRAZIER: Miss Watson, my question
5 is for you: Going back to the proposed Bias
6 Commission and how it differs from the State Civil
7 Rights Commission in terms of its scope, its powers
8 and would you in fact in order to have similar
9 kinds of ability such as patterned by the New York
10 Commission, would you not indeed have to have a
11 budget that would allow you to --

12 MS. WATSON: Absolutely. The Governor
13 mandated the budget and created it in the State of
14 New York. The Commission in New York works very
15 closely with the Justice Department and law
16 enforcement and can override and have direct access
17 in particular regions of the state, so that it is
18 more of a coordinating piece and it also operates
19 with a lot of teeth. You have power. You have
20 money. You have a will and you have the marketing
21 so that the community knows about it and there is a
22 general sense that at least somebody, they work
23 with the Civil Rights Commission. And they work
24 with the local Human Rights, NAACP, ADL. At these
25 point you have a lot of organizations who are doing

1 pieces of it, and it is not one collective body.

2 DR. FRAZIER: In other words, if I
3 were the local police chief and there was an
4 incident in Roseville, Michigan, this Commission
5 would have broad powers to call me in?

6 MS. WATSON: Yes.

7 DR. FRAZIER: Respond on the spot to
8 what happened?

9 MS. WATSON: That is a good example.
10 Under the ethnic intimidation law there is one
11 Prosecutor in Macomb County that appears to be very
12 well schooled on it. Acts with, I think good
13 commitment in education and training persons who
14 work under him. There is another person who works
15 in another municipality who has no commitment and
16 has expressed it publicly. And that is the
17 violation of the law. When you have this kind of
18 inconsistent application of the law, that is
19 already on the books and people are exercising
20 their own interpretation and their own decisions
21 about what can and cannot be enforced, it leads to
22 inconsistent protection of citizens' rights.

23 DR. FRAZIER: Just one other question:
24 have you presented the request?

25 MS. WATSON: A meeting has been

1 requested with the present Governor. That said
2 meeting has not yet been accomplished.

3 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Do you have one from
4 Macomb County?

5 MS. WATSON: He has one from Macomb
6 County.

7 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Go ahead.

8 MR. EARL RICKMAN: To the Members of
9 the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, I am Earl
10 Rickman, President of the Macomb County Branch of
11 the NAACP.

12 Today as I present my remarks I wish I
13 could say all is well in Macomb County. But then
14 again it depends on who determines the validity of
15 the progress and equal opportunity in Macomb
16 County. As the spokesperson for the Macomb County
17 Branch of NAACP, I offer and submit a failing
18 progress in the county of Macomb, in the area of
19 civil and human rights.

20 In the time allotted to me I will
21 briefly give an overview, overview of complaints
22 and inquiries that the Macomb County Branch NAACP
23 has received since January 1990 to the present day.

24 Since January of 1990 the number of
25 reported racial incidents to our office totals

1 twenty-two cases. These cases break down to whites
2 against blacks. Three harassment at home dealing
3 with blacks moving into traditionally all white
4 neighborhoods. In some of the cases repeated
5 persons mailboxes have been repeatedly run over by
6 trucks, folks have gathered dead rats and placed
7 them on door steps. There have been ten cases of
8 harassment or beatings or fights; one resulting in
9 the death of a young black man. We have had one
10 case of a black against a white in fighting. We
11 have had three cases of harassment, of passing by
12 vehicles where persons passed by and shouted out
13 racial slurs. We have had three cases of
14 harassment by whites towards blacks in housing and
15 that goes in line with the first harassment I was
16 talking about where blacks move into traditionally
17 and predominantly all white neighborhoods, where
18 signs were placed on their yards: Niggers go home.
19 Paint, spray painted on cars, nigger we don't want
20 you here. No culprit or no alleged person has been
21 found in these cases.

22 These -- there are cases or inquiries.
23 There are more cases that are out there in Macomb
24 County, but we can only deal with the cases that
25 are brought to our attention. There have been six

1 inquiries into our office about the dissemination
2 of hate literature by white supremacist groups
3 being passed out in Macomb -- in malls in Macomb
4 County. Hate information being distributed through
5 mailings and hate information being placed on black
6 peoples' lawns in their neighborhood.

7 Hate groups are definitely on the rise
8 in Macomb County.

9 In the area of employment and
10 employment advancement opportunity, our office has
11 received fifteen inquiries. These inquiries
12 involve one advancement or placement of employment
13 assignment, two, unfair discharge from employment,
14 and, three, inquiries about a lesser qualified
15 person receiving advanced placement and promotional
16 placement on the confines of the county work force.

17 Many of these issues were discussed at
18 a series of meetings held by the Macomb County
19 NAACP and employee groups for the County of Macomb.
20 No further actions were indicated by employees
21 because of fear of retaliation from their employer.
22 Ironically on June 20th of 1991, there was a front
23 page article entitled Minority Hiring Plan
24 Mandated. The State has strongly suggested to
25 Macomb County officials to quickly develop a plan

1 to recruit minority workers or jeopardize losing
2 grant funds. Many of the Macomb County
3 Commissioners, which I might add are composed of
4 twenty-four whites and one black, uphold an
5 affirmative action plan, either be it by political
6 or philosophical reasoning. The State has also
7 informed the County of Macomb that their EEO plan
8 is no longer sufficient. The 1990 census reports
9 that the population of Macomb County being
10 approximately seven hundred and seventeen thousand
11 people. Minorities make up three point three
12 percent of the total population; where blacks make
13 up one point four percent in the county. Black and
14 minorities are relegated to service, maintenance
15 workers and paraprofessional in the County of
16 Macomb. There are no minorities as department
17 heads, midmanagement and upper level management
18 positions or any of the top thirty-four appointed
19 officials. As minorities, we are still the last
20 hired and the first fired.

21 In conclusion, there has been
22 advancements in terms of human and civil rights in
23 Macomb County. But for every step forward we have
24 been pushed two steps backwards. In Macomb County,
25 racism, separatism and sexism are very light

1 sleepers and are very easily awakened. Prejudice
2 seldom sleeps, malice seldom rests, and bigotry is
3 an insomniac. So, we can't stop to rest. We can't
4 sleep for the struggle continues. We must awaken
5 our thoughts, words and deeds to swim swiftly
6 against the rolling tides of racism for future
7 generations of Americans, black and white to be
8 totally free.

9 Submit -- respectively submitted, Earl
10 Rickman. Macomb County Branch NAACP.

11 I will attempt to answer any questions
12 anyone may have with regard to the statements I
13 have made.

14 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any questions?

15 DR. FRAZIER: Are these statistics
16 that you have gathered, are they being presented to
17 be entered into the record today?

18 MR. RICKMAN: Yes. They can be entered
19 into the record, yes.

20 As a matter of fact I would request
21 that they be put into the record.

22 MS. GATTORN: I think the statistics
23 one point four, that is black employment --

24 MR. RICKMAN: That is total Black
25 population in Macomb County.

1 MS. GATTORN: Then you referred to
2 employment outside of management, where there was
3 none, that was employment in the County of Macomb?

4 MR. RICKMAN: Right.

5 MS. GATTORN: Not public employment?

6 MR. RICKMAN: Talking about Macomb
7 County government.

8 MS. GATTORN: Right; just so I
9 understand.

3
10 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Mr. Rickman, thank
11 you very much.

12 We've got to switch the tapes.

13 Okay. I will briefly tell you after
14 lunch we will have Norman Beitner, President of the
15 Michigan Advisory Board of the Anti-Defamation
16 League at 1:10.

17 At 1:35: Rebecca Lo, Director of the
18 American Citizens for Justice.

19 Randy Pacheo, President of Lakeshore
20 Spanish Forum.

21 2:30: Chair of the Detroit City
22 Council Maryann Mahaffey.

23 Dr. Henry Messer, Board Member of the
24 Lesbian Gay Foundation of Michigan along with Marc
25 Loveless who is Project Coordinator Violence

1 Project.

2 At 3:15 we have Hsal Helterhoff Special
3 Agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of
4 Investigation.

5 3:35. Robert Arcand, Executive
6 Director, Greater Detroit Interfaith Round Table
7 of the NCCJ.

8 3:55: Jonathan Macks, Senior Attorney
9 with Michigan Bell, and Phil Jones, Media Relations
10 Director, Michigan Bell.

11 These are the individuals following the
12 lunch break on the agenda. We will break for lunch
13 at 12:00 Noon and return at 1:00 o'clock.

14 Okay. Joann.

15 MS. JOANN WATSON: Commissioners, civil
16 rights officials, citizens.

17 Because I believe that hate crimes do
18 not occur in Michigan or elsewhere in a vacuum, I
19 will try to address a socioeconomic political
20 agenda which I believe patterns hate crimes, racial
21 polarization and racial tension not only in the
22 State of Michigan but certainly in the nation as a
23 backdrop, I will also identify a sampling of cases
24 that have been reported to the NAACP in the course
25 of our work --

1 DR. FRAZIER: Can you speak up, please.
2 Can you hear in the back?

3 MS. WATSON: I assumed there would be
4 mikes here. I will try to project.

5 I will outline what I consider, and
6 this is not just me, but many people who are active
7 in the national anti-Klan movement, which includes
8 an organization called the Center for Democratic
9 Renewal, what we consider a four-point agenda for
10 "new racism" that is currently at work in this
11 country.

12 Racism, of course, has always been
13 deeply ingrained in this country and the systems of
14 American society. So the term "new racism" is not
15 meant to imply that racism has ever gone away or
16 been an absent factor. The "new racism" does,
17 however, characterize a dangerous and deadly
18 environment which mainstreams other hate activities
19 to threaten basic constitutional guarantees for
20 many people who are citizens of this country.
21 White supremacists and hate group leaders should
22 not be viewed only as kooks and extremists who
23 sometimes appear on Donahue and Geraldo. Their
24 movement has become a mass phenomenon with growing
25 numbers of converts, funding and influence on every

1 level.

2 At this point in our nation's history
3 many whites deflect all "ownership" and
4 responsibility for racism (the underlying
5 philosophy: "What do these people want?" and "I
6 never owned any slaves"). Others have become
7 frustrated because they thought we'd 'solved
8 racism' during the civil rights movement and are
9 convinced that significant progress has been
10 achieved. ("Just look at Bill Cosby and Oprah
11 Winfrey"). As a result of this kind of
12 philosophical base, which has been helped along by
13 national leadership and rapid organizing by white
14 supremacist groups over the last eighteen years
15 including the White Aryan Resistance, Neo Nazis,
16 Skinheads, Ku Klux Klan, the National Association
17 For the Advancement of White People, and the Posse
18 Comitatus and many others. These individuals and
19 the organizations have been molded and manipulated
20 into a dangerous social movement. They work
21 together. They are not separate enclaves any
22 longer. At one point the Ku Klux Klan kind of did
23 its own thing. The Ku Klux Klan is now directly
24 tied into Tom Metzger; the White Aryan Resistance,
25 they work together to fund hotlines, including two

1 which are operating here in the Detroit
2 metropolitan area. These hot lines -- and many
3 have cable television programs.

4 The Center for Democratic Renewal
5 publishes a book titled "They Don't All Wear
6 Sheets" which examines the impact of white
7 supremacy and the white nationalist movement in
8 corporate board rooms, cable television, major
9 political parties, religious and social
10 institutions.

11 In overt violence which I am using as
12 the first agenda point, not a single day goes by
13 when somebody in this country is not victimized by
14 hate violence. In Los Angeles there was a 300%
15 increase last year in reported violence against
16 people of color. In Wisconsin, Native-Americans
17 report bumper stickers which say: "Spear an
18 Indian - Save a Fish", and "Shoot An Indian - Save
19 A Deer". In Lexington, Kentucky a Puerto Rican
20 prisoner of conscience was forced to endure vulgar
21 sexual taunting. In Miami, Robeson County, North
22 Carolina, Teaneck, New Jersey, New York and other
23 cities police officers have murdered unarmed
24 African-Americans without sanctions. I will talk
25 about Michigan statistics later.

1 There are at least eighteen
2 paramilitary camps functioning in this country
3 which have a stated reason for being to train white
4 youth, male and female for a race war. Experts say
5 that the training that many of them are engaging in
6 is done with weapons that could have only come from
7 somebody connected with the U.S. military. The
8 fact that Skinheads and their older Neo-Nazi
9 counterparts have been granted unprecedented acces
10 to the media because of First Amendment rights to
11 air racist propaganda on regional radio and
12 national television programs has also won them new
13 recruits and emboldened existing followers. We
14 have a generation that is being recruited of young
15 people who have no knowledge of Jim Crow laws.
16 They were not around when the Martin Luther King
17 and civil rights marches were going on. They have
18 no backdrop of racist attitudes, that have been
19 inculcated into them. They have been taught to
20 believe, young white people, that anyone who talks
21 about civil rights or affirmative action is in fact
22 asking for a special privilege which will deny them
23 their rights.

24 The white supremacist movement is
25 alive, well and growing. And they are less visibly

1 robed than Klansmen and we should not let that fool
2 us. They have become very sophiscated. They are
3 subtle. They use high-tech. They communicate by
4 computer. They use murder, harassment, threat,
5 firebombs, property damage, shootings and assault.
6 They recruit and propagandize. They are far more
7 cohesive and Nazified in this country at this point
8 than they were in the 60's against people in the
9 civil rights movement. Many whites feel that they
10 have lost white skin privilege. Their violence as
11 it is occurring in this country is sadly not being
12 reported on the 6:00 news, like Bull Connor and the
13 firehoses in the 60's, and should not be viewed as
14 random; it is planned, coordinated and calculated.

15 The second piece of this new agenda is
16 technological. Their intellectual arm of this new
17 hate movement is centered in the Institute for
18 Historical Review which among other things refutes
19 the Holocaust. These people read a magazine called
20 "The Spotlight". There are many subscribers in the
21 State of Michigan and Metropolitan Detroit. There
22 are one hundred and thirteen thousand subscribers
23 nationwide; and it is distributed to at least
24 fifteen thousand more in and around the country.
25 "The Thunderbolt" magazine, which they also produce

1 is anti-Black, anti-Semitic and relishes the
2 opportunity to hype AIDS hysteria. They have a
3 publication "Crusade versus Corruption" that says
4 "the cause of AIDS is Blacks, Gays and Jews". And
5 they manage a national "Thank God for AIDS
6 Campaign." A book called The Dispossessed Majority
7 has been sent to students, white students in prep
8 schools telling them that affirmative action will
9 keep them from getting into the schools of their
10 choice. Of course, you know that racism is growing
11 on university, college and high school campuses.
12 The University of Chicago has a group called the
13 "Great White Brotherhood of the Iron Fist".

14 The flagship newspaper of the movement
15 is published by the Liberty Lobby based in D.C.
16 The movement also makes regular use of electronic
17 media including radio and public access television.
18 There are twenty am and fm stations in every region
19 of the country that have paid broadcast weekly
20 sermons by Christian Identity leaders. We will
21 talk about that in a moment.

22 Political racism is the third strategy
23 of these new hate movements. The political arm of
24 the Liberty Lobby which organized the Populist
25 Party, which has run a number of candidates in the

1 last three elections. Populists, Democrats and
2 Republicans, however, have been infiltrated by this
3 new political racism by this white nationalist
4 trend.

5 Of course, the most significant
6 breakthrough into mainstream politics has been
7 David Duke of Louisiana. David Duke's current
8 gubernatorial campaign has received seventy percent
9 of their contributions from people outside of the
10 State of Louisiana to help them in this white
11 supremacists effort.

12 The most dangerous aspect of the white
13 supremacist movement is the core of intellectuals
14 who provide ideological leadership, organized
15 around the slick monthly magazine called
16 Instauration. They also deny the Holocaust and
17 they provide continuity, innovation and money.

18 Religious racism is the fourth
19 strategy. The religious arm of the religious
20 racism is the Christian Identity Movement or the
21 Identity Church. There are converts in the State
22 of Michigan. These people believe that the real
23 lost tribes of Israel are the Anglo Saxons who got
24 lost for a while, stayed near the Caucasus
25 Mountains and received the name Caucasian, and in

1 time moved to Northern Europe waiting for God to
2 call them to the promised land, i.e., North
3 America. They believe that White people are
4 created in the image of God. This is from their own
5 literature. Jews are the spawn of Eve and Satan.
6 And they believe that Black people are pre-Adamic,
7 pre-Adam, and that Black people are the descendants
8 of the beast. The Christian Identity followers
9 have as a part of their mission to be a pure, white
10 and Christian republic. They believe that race is
11 grace and that the Constitution should be based on
12 the ten commandments, and that God gave white
13 people dominion over all other people in Genesis
14 1:26.

15 The Aryan Youth Movement is clear about
16 the stakes, "Whoever has the youth has the future."
17 The result is that the white supremacist movement
18 is getting younger -- the perpetrators are younger.
19 The strategists are younger, and the spokespersons
20 are younger. C.T. Vivian who was part of the area
21 around Martin Luther King says the battle is on for
22 the "hearts and minds" of America's youth.

23 Within the past several years the
24 national administration has declared war on Iraq,
25 war on drugs and war on illiteracy. However, we

1 believe that the most serious plague that continues
2 to pose the most dangerous unanswered threat of the
3 21st century and earlier centuries is racism. We
4 believe that this nation must declare war on racism
5 at the highest levels and on individual levels.
6 When we declare war on racism, we will not be
7 deluded into accepting any manipulation that
8 denounces civil rights as some small special
9 interest. Anyone who is working for civil rights
10 in this country like the passage of the Civil
11 Rights Act of 1991, basically are supporting
12 constitutional rights that ought to be guaranteed
13 as a matter of force to every citizen who is born
14 in this country.

15 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: How much more time
16 do you need?

17 MS. WATSON: I -- two minutes.

18 An average of two hundred cases per
19 month come into the NAACP office, roughly one fifth
20 of these cases are categorized as hate activity in
21 the workplace, allegations related to police
22 brutality and persons taunted or subjected to
23 physical assault. Police cases, five black males
24 have filed a suit, filed complaints against one
25 particular suburban police entity. One black woman

1 filed a complaint against a police department in
2 which she said she was targeted, followed and then
3 assaulted for no apparent reason. Within the past
4 weekend, three young blacks who happen to live in
5 Detroit or in Warren, Michigan and filed reports
6 with the NAACP that they were assaulted by police
7 officers. They claim that the police officers
8 uttered that they were responding for what happened
9 to the white women in the fireworks beating in
10 Detroit. The fourteen year old youth who was
11 assaulted by the Birmingham physician, his family
12 has filed a complaint with the NAACP because they
13 are concerned that the charges against the
14 physician have not included ethnic intimidation. I
15 am sure you read about the State trooper who was
16 harassed, relating to his civil rights. Sexual and
17 racial harassment have been combined categories in
18 many complaints. The Human Rights Department of
19 the City of Detroit reports that sexual harassment
20 cases and complaints have gone up dramatically over
21 the last twelve months. Charges of wrongful death
22 and racist killings have been reported by NAACP
23 Chapters in Muskegon, Michigan, Benton Harbor,
24 Michigan and wrongful assaults in Warren, Michigan
25 and Romulus, Michigan. I have five other pages

1 that I will not cite of incidents including a woman
2 who works at the Warren Tank Plant who was
3 intimidated. She was threatened and she received
4 absolutely no help within the workplace. She was
5 taunted. There was a threat on her life and she
6 could not go to the normal means of redress in the
7 agency she works for and she works for the Tank
8 Automotive Command which is connected with the U.S.
9 government in Warren, Michigan. So hate crimes and
10 activity is on the increase in Metropolitan
11 Detroit. Of course, we believe it ought to be met
12 with a fast response. NAACP has put together a
13 Summit on Race Relations that has been working
14 since last September and we are talking about
15 proactive community measures, so we don't respond
16 to incidents, but we have people go out early
17 morning, so people can report to us when literature
18 is being distributed. We believe that the Bias
19 Commission is a proactive step and want to continue
20 to be a part of the problem solving in this area.
21 Thank you very much

22 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any questions?

23 MR. KOBRAK: Thank you for an excellent
24 statement. Like you, my impression is that I think
25 young people are largely involved in the new

1 groups. What happened? We went for a period of
2 years where a generation was without this kind of
3 activity. What happened to the sharp break in the
4 progress?

5 MS. WATSON: I think a couple of things
6 happened. There was a shift, quite frankly in the
7 kind of moral leadership that we deserve and we
8 ought to get from national leadership. It is a
9 sense it is okay to be racist again in this
10 country. Affirmative action and any pieces which
11 have been designed to redress wrongs have been
12 categorized as special privilege, rather than
13 redress. It serves to manipulate and also serves
14 to create and fan racist fears and also
15 polarization. There are young people who have not
16 been educated, young people of all backgrounds have
17 not been educated about the movement. They don't
18 know from which most of us have come. They are not
19 equipped, our schools, our churches, all of our
20 community groups and certainly the government have
21 a lot of things that they can share with our young
22 people. If I get the information, I get weekly
23 national updates on the anti-Klan network. If I
24 have it, then the government has it, and then
25 somebody ought to do something to proactively

1 prevent and educate and to deal with the young
2 people. They are more at risk that many of society
3 understands they might be.

4 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Ms. Gattorn.

5 MS. GATTORN: You mentioned early on in
6 your statement that you believe that the media is
7 not responding the way it did early on in the civil
8 rights movement. You have indicated that you
9 thought this was organized in media

10 Could you characterize what you mean by
11 that? By that do you mean that professionals get
12 together and keep certain things from you? What
13 did you mean by organized?

14 MS. WATSON: There is a philosophical
15 tone that undermines too. There is a reason, for
16 example that the Public Affairs Format Stations
17 that come on television on Sunday morning that used
18 to be a liberal, a moderate, and a conserative.
19 Now they are all conservative. People -- over the
20 last ten years, really over the last fifteen years
21 there has been a shift away from the center. And
22 anyone who is viewed as liberal is, really, anyone
23 who basically supports civil rights and justice for
24 all people is seen as out of the mainstream. That
25 is very dangerous, because anyone who is advocating

1 civil rights for all people basically supporting
2 the Constitution which ought not to be seen as
3 leftist or in insurrectionist kind of activity.
4 Yet it has been packaged that way. We have moved
5 the mainstream far right. I think -- sometimes we
6 allow people to wrap themselves in the American
7 flag and claim to be the real patriot. In fact
8 there is a very racist movement that calls itself
9 Patriot, who in fact are preaching the annihilation
10 of this country.

11 MS. GATTORN: One other question: You
12 mention Duke. Do you have any sense of the dollar
13 amount of his campaign? Would that shock us if we
14 knew the dollar amount?

15 MS. WATSON: It would shock you. I
16 went to a meeting in April and the amount had grown
17 by a quarter of a million since the meeting I
18 attended in January. So I won't say a figure at
19 this point. It keeps growing.

20 MS. GATTORN: It is beyond a quarter of
21 a million?

22 MS. WATSON: Oh, yes, Oh, yes, he is --

23 MS. GATTORN: That gives us a kind of
24 sense of the kind of money going into the campaign.

25 MS. WATSON: Yes.

1 DR. FRAZIER: Yes. You refer to
2 incidents that were being reported to your
3 organization weekly or monthly?

4 MS. WATSON: Yes.

5 DR. FRAZIER: What is the process once
6 you receive the information; what happens to it?
7 Do you then contact or speak to, in any way, law
8 enforcement agencies?

9 MS. WATSON: Sometimes. Once we receive
10 the complaint we determine whether or not the
11 complaint has merit, as a basis. In fact our Civil
12 Rights Complaint Director is here. If we determine
13 that the complaint has merit, fair housing,
14 employment related, whether it is somebody who is
15 complaining they have in fact come up against hate
16 activity, then we go through what we call the
17 official inquiry process. If it is police
18 brutality, we go over to the police department and
19 get a copy of the police report and have them
20 address the charge. Normally we achieve some kind
21 of resolution. At the very least, we monitor, we
22 offer to provide expert witnesses, we provide
23 support where needed if there is litigation, and
24 the use of the law in Michigan.

25 MS. THOMAS: I would like to ask a

1 question, maybe I misunderstand when you said about
2 the conservatives. Are you stating that the
3 conservatives are the bigots? Are you saying
4 that -- what are you saying; I didn't understand.

5 MS. WATSON: I am not saying
6 conservatives are bigots.

7 MS. THOMAS: I mean, are they all
8 white?

9 MS. WATSON: No, no, not all bigots are
10 white. I am talking about a movement that has been
11 happening in this country. It has not been
12 monitored nor has it been exposed to your average
13 citizen. Most people in this country and most
14 people in this State and City are not aware of what
15 is happening beneath the surface, beneath the
16 surface of the incidents of the things that make
17 the headlines are the pattern of a movement that is
18 connected to the Ku Klux Klan, the Neo Nazis, the
19 White Aryan Resistance, the National Association
20 for the Advancement of White People, the Skinheads;
21 they are all connected.

22 MS. THOMAS: But you see, I don't
23 consider these people conseratives.

24 MS. WATSON: I didn't say they were
25 conservatives. They are hate groups.

1 They call themselves conseratives; I did not. I
2 think they are anti-American. I call them
3 treasonists.

4 MS. THOMAS: I thought you remarked as
5 to TV on Sunday morning --

6 MS. WATSON: That question was put to
7 me, how do I feel about that. I am like you, I
8 really didn't know. I think the basic mainstream
9 of America has been ignored. I think most
10 Americans are decent people who want the rights of
11 all people to be protected. And those people are
12 not controlling all of the power institutions.
13 Because we are not as organized as we should be and
14 those forces against justice are extremely well
15 organized and very well funded right now. They are
16 outorganizing, and outfunding those of us who are
17 on the side of justice. That is dangerous. We are
18 not armed with information. We don't know what is
19 going on. And we are blithely going along dealing
20 with incident after incident while they are
21 creating an entire movement. That needs to be
22 looked at very harshly by this group.

23 I challenge you to expose and use the
24 authority of your Commission to expose that and do
25 that as a model for the rest of the nation. We are

1 a very progressive community, we can do what has
2 not been done in the other states.

3 MR. GORDON: Has the NAACP been able to
4 document activities of the national hate groups in
5 Michigan as far as organizing --

6 MS. WATSON: We have information about
7 them. Curiously, I get most of the information
8 from outside of Michigan. I get most of my
9 information from the National Anti-Klan Network
10 that has a vast network, and they are able to
11 enlist people to provide information, people who
12 might not otherwise do so for fear of being victim
13 of some kind of reprisal. We had, we know that
14 there are two hate lines going on right now in this
15 area. That came to us not from the Justice
16 Department or the FBI. That came from some people
17 that called in tips into our office.

18 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Perhaps when we have
19 a representative from the FBI then some of the
20 questions that have been asked will be supplied to
21 the FBI.

22 MS. WATSON: I thank you very much.

23 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Our next presenter
24 before we break for lunch is Jessica --

25 MS. JESSICA DAHER: Daher.

1 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Daher, I'm sorry.

2 MS. DAHER: And this is my associate.

3 I am the Regional Coordinator of the
4 Discrimination Committee of the Arab-American
5 Association.

6 I would like to thank Peter Minarik,
7 first of all for giving me the opportunity to be
8 here. I very much appreciate it. I want to give
9 you just a quick background on our organization.
10 We are a relatively new organization by the
11 standard here. It will provide a little bit more
12 of a context for my remarks. In 1979 a group of
13 prominent Arab-Americans headed by James Abouresk
14 met in Washington, D.C. to discuss the formation of
15 a new organization, the purpose of which would be
16 to defend the rights of Arab-Americans, promote the
17 culture and combat the growing negative images of
18 Arabs in popular media.

19 A number of incidents precipitated the
20 convening of this Ad Hoc group, Operation Boulder,
21 instituted by the Nixon administration in 1972 was
22 the first public policy directed against
23 Arab-Americans. This program was designed to
24 "combat terrorism" in the United States, focused on
25 ethnic Arabs and was designed as a response to Arab

1 terrorism abroad directed at Israel citizens. The
2 result of this so-called terrorism program was a
3 world spread surveillance of thousands of
4 Arab-Americans and Arabs living in the United
5 States, whose affiliations were anything but
6 suspect. There were, in fact, never any criminal
7 indictments as a result of this program.

8 The second incident which spurred
9 Arab-Americans to action was the F.B.I sting
10 operation called Arab scam, ABSCAM, for short.
11 This program was formulated in the late 1970's and
12 employed other popular stereotype of Arabs, the
13 oil-rich Sheik. The oil sheik image popularized in
14 this country during the 1973 oil embargo, depicts
15 Arabs as greedy, seeking to control the financial
16 markets in this country. This image, incidentally
17 is not unlike pattently anti-Semitic images of Jews
18 in Europe, in the 1920's and 1930's. They were
19 portrayed as a wealthy banking class seeking to
20 control the international financial markets.

21 Twice in one decade was enough for the
22 Arab-American community to be singled out by
23 federal agencies, so thanks to the federal
24 government, our organization was born. As we
25 approach a new millenium, the century old

1 Arab-American community of Michigan faces
2 challenges that have as much to do with
3 international relations as with local politics.

4 For most people in Michigan, as well as
5 Americans in general, the images of Arabs come from
6 the media reporting on the geopolitical struggles
7 of the Middle East. Frequently such reporting
8 communicates implicitly or quite explicitly as
9 Washington Times syndicated columnist, Richard
10 Grenier, recently put it "Arabs are our opponents".
11 Yet the people of this State have an opportunity
12 that many in the country do not, to have Arabs as
13 neighbors, wives and husbands, and business
14 associates, to meet muslims, both Sunni and Shiite
15 to encounter Christians and to realize in short the
16 surest teacher, experience, that Arabs and
17 Arab-Americans have a full range of human qualities
18 and do not match the sinister stereotype assigned
19 to them by the media, and sometimes the government.

20 Two hundred and fifty thousand Arabs
21 and Arab-Americans live in Michigan. Despite a rich
22 and diverse culture rooted in three millenia, our
23 very visible community can be threatening to some
24 In times of war, such as the recent Gulf Crisis,
25 those threats can and do lead to violence. But the

1 backlash against our community during the last year
2 has not been the first time we have been victimized
3 because of our national origin. During the Iranian
4 hostage crisis of 1979 and 1980, for example, many
5 in this community were the target of violence,
6 perpretrated by people who did not bother to
7 distinguish between Iranians and Arabs. We hold
8 our breath in this country everytime hostilities
9 errupt in the Middle East, because Arab Americans
10 frequently serve as scapegoats for American
11 frustrations with Middle East politics.

12 The issue of harassment and crimes
13 motivated by bigotry against our community resonate
14 with ironry. Like many immigrant groups, people
15 from the Middle East came here to escape war,
16 political oppression, prejudice based on religious
17 and ethnic affiliation.

18 Early 20th century immigrants came
19 largely to escape poverty and military
20 conscription. They were almost exclusively
21 Christian. While they encountered problems, it was
22 their intention to assimilate as quickly as
23 possible, and this they did very successfully.

24 Today conditions have changed
25 dramatically. Immigrants, who are primarily, but

1 not exclusively Muslim encounter hostility
2 reflected in a forty year foreign policy that often
3 betrays Arabs enemy and approaches Islam as heresy.
4 Although the civil rights movement has generated a
5 new sensitivity about what is publicly unacceptable
6 in terms of racially based utterances, we find that
7 Arabs remain pretty much fair game for bigots,
8 anywhere, anytime. Politicians find that Arab
9 bashing is good politics. Ask Walter Mondale and
10 Gary Hart about the 1984 presidential election,
11 when neither would have anything to do with
12 Arab-American campaign contributions. Image that
13 a politician declining campaign contributions.

14 Arab jokes always fit the occasion.
15 Just ask Michigan Congressman Bob Davis, who after
16 we had bombed Iraq into the pre-industrial age
17 thought it appropriate to tell jokes about the
18 ugliness of Iraq women at a gathering in this
19 state. In popular culture, whether T.V., film, or
20 novels the sleazy Arab as stock villan has become
21 the tool of the trade.

22 Federal agencies have contributed to
23 the perception that Arabs are to be feared by
24 conducting wholesale interrogations based on ethnic
25 or national origin, rather than on specific

1 criminal investigation. This was certainly the
2 case on January 7th of this year when the FBI
3 announced its program of questioning Arab-Americans
4 about hate crimes and terrorism. We continue to
5 hold the position that this was a ruse, and
6 ultimately contributed to a heightened suspicion of
7 our community.

8 The economy certainly plays a role in
9 the spread of ethnic bigotry and racism in this
10 country and in this state. The perception of a
11 limited pie and the need to compete and crush those
12 who seek to share it can be seen right here in the
13 Detroit area, in the struggles between the Chaldean
14 and African-American communities.

15 In this case, poverty, and the clash of
16 cultures lead to a volatile situation precarious
17 for all concerned. Given this general context, no
18 one should be surprised that Arab-Americans number
19 among the victims of hate crimes. For the reasons
20 given above, we believe, we must make sure that our
21 government and public institutions are not creating
22 an environment where these acts of violence will be
23 tolerated. In the case of the Arab-American
24 community, we feel that that is precisely what is
25 happening and has happened for many years in this

1 country, and in this state.

2 Documentating hate crimes in our
3 community is sometimes difficult. Fear is the
4 biggest obstacle to overcome in the reporting of
5 hate crimes. It is hard to convince people that by
6 reporting hate crimes, something will change. It
7 is hard to break the habit of viewing government as
8 the enemy.

9 In the Middle East, in some countries,
10 it is the police who often cause the people to
11 disappear, and intelligence agencies have been
12 known to kill and torture citizens. One can
13 imagine how uneasy a recent immigrant would feel
14 reporting to my agency that the F.B.I. visited them
15 or that they had trouble with the police department
16 abusing them. One can imagine how difficult it is
17 to encourage Arab-American to report hate crimes to
18 the police or to the F.B.I., when it is believed
19 that bigotry holds sway within those agencies. Or
20 if there is fear that those agencies share the
21 information about the complaint with INS, possibly
22 jeopardizing someones' immigration status. Many
23 Arab-Americans do not know what their rights are.
24 Like many Americans, they are not sure of the laws
25 and agencies at their disposal.

1 To give you a sense of the
2 underreporting of hate crime in the Arab-American
3 community, I would like to share with you the fact
4 that during the war our office received about ten
5 complaints from our members. Recently spoke to a
6 police officer at one of the police departments in
7 this tri-county area, and he told me they had
8 logged one hundred twenty-five complaints during a
9 six week period from January to March. I asked the
10 police officer, who is a twenty-five year veteran
11 of his force, what we might have expected should
12 the Gulf War have continued. He stated, that
13 serious violence, including loss of life would have
14 occurred in the Arab-American community.

15 I would like to close by reading to you
16 a sampling of incidents that have occurred and been
17 documented over the past year or so in the State of
18 Michigan.

19 In Dearborn, two FBI agents knocked on
20 the door of a couple who are a doctor and medical
21 social worker. After sitting in their living room,
22 one agent politely asked, "excuse me, Dr. so and
23 so, and Mrs. so and so, we know you both are
24 prominent members of the Arab community. Tell us
25 about terrorism within your community?"

1 Underneath a Livonia highway overpass
2 during the Gulf War, someone writes "the only good
3 Arab is a dead Arab."

4 During the Gulf War, an Arab teenager
5 at a gas station speaks in Arabic to a friend.
6 Three white males jump him and beat him up.

7 At a suburban bank, a teller displays
8 a T-shirt with the message, "I'd fly ten thousand
9 miles to smoke a Camel." The camel in this case
10 was the image of an Arab on a camel.

11 A religious leader in Dearborn,
12 Michigan receives death threats late at night the
13 front window of his house was shot out.

14 During the Gulf War, an outspoken Arab
15 professor receives numerous death threats. He
16 declines to appear on national television news,
17 fearing that he will become more of a target.

18 Another professor, who has no history,
19 of political activism and happens to be Chaldean,
20 is shocked to have F.B.I. agents show up in his
21 office at a major university and ask him about
22 terrorism.

23 An Iraq woman and her mother sit in a
24 restaurant speaking Arabic. Two men approach them
25 demanding to know what country they are from, the

1 woman lies about her origin in fear of personal
2 assault.

3 A boy in Dearborn is physically
4 assaulted by a Taylor man because the boy verbally
5 defended his heritage after the man remarked,
6 "those God damm camel jockeys, let's kick ass."

7 A man claiming to be a retired Army
8 general calls my office and says, "you all are
9 foreigners, and you should go back to Iraq. You
10 are nothing but a bunch of Saddam Hussein
11 sympatherizers." The next day he calls and says,
12 "bang, bang, you're dead."

13 Prior to that a man calls my office and
14 announces, "I'll be there in fifteen minutes with a
15 high-powered rifle and shoot you Arabs." Pipes and
16 stones are thrown through windows of the home of a
17 Palestinan family in Detroit. Obscene and
18 threatening phone calls are made. A non-Arab
19 journalist in Dearborn has her windows smashed in
20 her home after she writes an editorial in the local
21 paper sympathetic to Arabs.

22 The list goes on and on. I would like
23 to read one last letter I just received recently.
24 This is an Arabic family living in Bloomfield. It
25 says: "congratulations, your home has been voted

1 filthiest on the block. We also voted to move your
2 klan to a local dump site. It will be more
3 appropriate to your heritage. It is too bad there
4 is always a pig like you on every block that brings
5 down the rest of the neighborhood. Do everyone a
6 big favor and move."

7 Some of these incidents are minor, but
8 taken together as a whole, they reflect deeply
9 engrained antipathy. And I feel the situation seems
10 to be getting worse than better.

11 I would be happy to answer any
12 questions.

13 MR. GORDON: Thank you for a
14 frightening report, to say the least. Do you find
15 as in the two later incidents that the police
16 departments are helpful when you approach them to
17 report the incidents do they stonewall it or do
18 they --

19 MS. DAHER: Well, I would have to say
20 that in Detroit there was a Task Force that was
21 setup which had a liaison officer that went out to
22 various communities, which we found to be extremely
23 helpful. We did not encounter any problems with
24 that. The situation in Dearborn is different and
25 so it is when we -- my main association with the

1 police department is when I am calling to
2 investigate a complaint made oftentimes against the
3 police department. One would not expect them to
4 jump up and down to cooperate. So it is mixed.

5 DR. FRAZIER: What is the percentage of
6 Arabic police in your community?

7 ASSOCIATE: Dearborn, which is where I
8 live, I think is the city that has only two Arabic
9 policemen, which is a real big problem. And, in
10 the past, these Arabic policemen, a Richard Arcany
11 who used to be on the force, was terribly harassed
12 and is no longer on the force. It is very, very
13 difficult. And I will tell you the truth, it is
14 very difficult to even walk down Warren sometimes.
15 A lot of the Arabic boys fear -- have a fear of
16 Dearborn police because I witnessed with my very
17 own eyes, there were these guys in a Black TransAm.
18 Apparently he was pulled over for no reason. I
19 watched this officer tell him to get out of the
20 car, for no reason. And so, if I was an Arabic boy,
21 I would try to take a different route.

22 MS. DAHER: I think one of the problems
23 when you ask questions like how many Arab-Americans
24 are on the police force, or how many
25 work in this agency, that agency, we do not -- we

1 don't appear on the census as anything. You have
2 to check other. We have no status, legally, and
3 that's a problem, a problem I think, in general, I
4 think in a state where there are so many
5 Arab-Americans. Michigan has the largest
6 population in the country and yet, we have no
7 status as such.

8 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: You mean to tell me
9 that forms that have where you check either White,
10 Black American, Asian, other --

11 MS. DAHER: Pacific Islander or
12 whatever.

13 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: What do you check?

14 MS. DAHER: Some people check white.
15 Some people check other, some people -- usually it
16 is white or other.

17 ASSOCIATE: There is something else I
18 would like to add about the census. It cannot be
19 given to the government or whatever we find not to
20 be the case. If you look at what happened to
21 Oakdale, Louisiana a few years back when they
22 wanted a concentration camp or whatever camp to put
23 Arabs into nationals, they used the census material
24 as data in identifying where the groups were in
25 the populace. There is a fear of even trusting or

1 even identifying them. Some are here fleeing civil
2 wars or whatever, maybe their status isn't a factor
3 yet. It is either dying in the war torn countries
4 or coming here as a safe haven.

5 MR. MARTIN: Has your agency been able
6 to quantify at all how sensitive these incidents
7 are to trouble in the Middle East? Say, for
8 example, if there is a peace settlement do the
9 incidents seem to abate or reduce?

10 MS. DAHER: Last year, I think our
11 national office logged maybe -- I want to say like
12 sixty or something. This was prior to August of
13 1990. I don't mean to jump, but the hostility
14 broke out. It is like the old saying that if
15 someone gets a cold, someone gets a pneumonia type
16 of thing. There is a real distinct relationship and
17 I think the media plays a large role in this. They
18 tend to, you know, through the war, Detroit was
19 interesting. On the one hand, I felt the press was
20 very sensitive to reporting the issue of
21 scapegoating, but on the other hand, some of the
22 ways in which they reported the war contributed to
23 that as fear.

24 MR. MARTIN: The FBI activity in
25 January, has that been resolved at all or is it

1 something that just happened?

2 I think Congressman Conyers' office was
3 maybe looking at that.

4 MS. DAHER: It resolved, we nationally
5 and locally met with the FBI to voice our objection
6 to this announced policy, the way it was announced.
7 So publicly, the whole idea was ludicrous as far as
8 I am concerned. It was interesting, because we
9 here in Detroit had set up appointments with the
10 FBI already in anticipating talking to them about
11 if we get these hate crimes, you know, how do we
12 deal with you? What is the mechanism in reporting
13 them to you? So we had the meeting set up January
14 11th. This thing breaks three or four days before,
15 it would have been helpful. I know they don't
16 announce in advance what they are going to do, but
17 I think it might have been handled differently, and
18 it might not have had the same kind of response.
19 Because it really -- the sum total of it was if you
20 you are Mr. or Miss America on the street, it is
21 like, well, hey, if the FBI thinks that these
22 people might know something about terrorism because
23 of who they are in terms of ethnic or national
24 sense, maybe I ought to be afraid of my neighbor.

25 If you want to conduct a criminal

1 investigation and you have information about
2 terrorism and you need to investigate it, that is
3 fine. But you just don't, just announce a program
4 and say we are going to talk to one hundred
5 twenty-five Arab-American leaders to find out about
6 hate crimes and what they know about terrorism.

7 MR. MARTIN: Was the January 11
8 meeting held?

9 MS. DAHER: Oh, yes, we went ahead and
10 held it.

11 MR. MARTIN: What was the outcome?

12 MS. DAHER: They basically told us that
13 they had pretty much concluded all of the
14 investigation, that they were going to hold in this
15 area. And, you know -- the problem again, one of
16 the problems is finding out if that is true from
17 the community. Because there are people in the
18 community who are very, very hesitant to come
19 forward and say, hey, I just got a call from the
20 FBI, or they just visited me. There was this
21 professor who wasn't political active. I just
22 found out about this from his wife, who is an
23 American, three weeks ago, and this happened during
24 the war. He told no one because he has a
25 professional standing in terms of the community.

1 MS. THOMAS: Well --

2 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Go ahead.

3 MS. THOMAS: I sympathize with you
4 very much, but the people I know that live in areas
5 where you have stores and things, Black people seem
6 to feel that you discriminate against them, you
7 know, and the children going in the stores.

8 MS. DAHER: Yes, I know, let's --

9 MS. THOMAS: There is a saying that you
10 came here disliking Black people. I am sure you
11 have heard that.

12 MS. DAHER: Well, I don't know about
13 that. I think that the problem between the
14 Chaldean community, which is interesting -- The
15 Chaldean community itself doesn't even identify
16 themselves as part of the Arab community. I don't
17 know if that is something all of you are aware of.
18 It is a very interesting relationship that we have
19 with them, and they have with the rest of the
20 community.

21 In any immigrant community you find --
22 you find the same problems with Koreans, you know,
23 Korean store owners and the African-American
24 community. I think that many immigrants coming to
25 this country sometimes pick up what I would frame

1 as the worse aspects of American culture. And one
2 of those aspects is racism.

3 So, I think there is in some situations
4 that are, there are elements of racism. I will not
5 apologize for that, and say it doesn't exist,
6 because it does. But I think that all of us know
7 that that poverty and economic situations
8 exacerbate that. I think any group within the
9 position where say where the Chaldeans are now,
10 whether or not Hispanics, whether or not it is
11 Jewish-Americans, they are controlled they are
12 perceived as having a controlling influence in the
13 community, and they do. It is a very complicated
14 problem. I think it is a problem that needs to be
15 addressed in Detroit. I don't feel there is enough
16 done about it.

17 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Last question.

18 MR. GORDON: I wonder if you, in your
19 report have been able to determine whether the
20 incidents are perpetrated by individuals,
21 individuals or whether they have been perpetrated
22 by organized hate groups.

23 MS. DAHER: I don't think -- my own
24 feeling is, it is not organized. It is
25 individuals. So in that sense -- it is different

1 than some of what we have heard today. But it is
2 just as real.

3 ASSOCIATE: Can I add something to
4 that? I remember during 1980 Iranian crisis, some
5 of the men had to shave off their beards, because
6 they would be identified as being Iranians. I
7 remember when people used to say, Shiite woman, or
8 Shiite Muslim, Shiite terrorists or whatever. And,
9 the media would seem to knipick instead of adding
10 attributes. They were not there for the population.
11 I remember people telling me, deny your heritage,
12 tell them you are Mexican. I am not. My friend
13 Christine Arum, (ps) who is a member of Victims of
14 War, she helped me through that. What have you
15 done, you have been here for years and years and
16 years, why are we being treated this way? Why are
17 we being treated this way? We have no control over
18 what happens in the Middle East, yet we are
19 constantly being scapegoated.

20 DR. FRAZIER: It also doesn't help to
21 pick the one spot, for racial intolerance over the
22 years; that is no excuse.

23 ASSOCIATE: Right. The media likes to
24 horn in on Dearborn, Michigan because it has a big
25 mosque as a backdrop for stories, but yet they

1 really don't have a real understanding for the
2 community.

3 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay.

4 We will break for lunch. It is twenty
5 after so about quarter after, at least --

6 (Lunch-Break at 12:20 a.m.)

7 1:21 p.m.

8 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: We are back in order.
9 Starting this afternoon session we will have Norman
10 Beitner, President of the Michigan Advocacy Board
11 of the Anti-Defamation League.

12 MR. NORMAN BEITNER: Good afternoon I
13 am Norman Beitner, President of the Michigan
14 Regional Board of the Anti Defamation League of
15 Bnai Brith. The Anti Defamation League or ADL as
16 it is more commonly known is one of America's
17 oldest private human relations organizations and the
18 largest in the world.

19 We commend the Michigan State Advisory
20 Committee of the United States Commission on Civil
21 Rights for holding this public forum. It is
22 ironically quite timely. The most recent hate
23 graffiti appearing in the metropolitan Detroit area
24 was just thirteen days ago in Oak Park. This one
25 was about killing the jews. Indeed in the

1 Metropolitan Detroit area last year we reported
2 sixteen incidents of vandalism; twenty-five
3 incidents of threats and harassments against Jews.
4 We receive reports on about ten percent of all
5 actual incidents. ADL's own data collection on
6 incidents against Jews is the only systematic
7 effort to gather such information, and falls far
8 short of being definitive. After that all of the
9 incidents against members of other groups, the
10 actual numbers of which are also not known. But
11 one gets, at least a sense of the enormity of the
12 problem.

13 One of the efforts at addressing this
14 hate crime situation is a bill being introduced in
15 the Michigan Legislature in the Fall by State
16 Representative David Gubow mandating specific
17 reporting of bias crimes by police departments
18 across the State along the lines of, more
19 comprehensive than the National Bias Crimes
20 Reporting Act. Presumably within the next two
21 years we will all have a better idea of just how
22 large the problem is, at least, with regards to
23 crimes reported, keeping in mind that many victims
24 of bias crimes never report the crime.

25 In a similar vein, ADL is proud to

1 introduce the Model Ethnic Intimidation Bill which
2 serves as a basis of Michigan's law introduced by
3 now Senator David Honigman. But even that law is
4 less than a definitive answer to the problem.
5 Today Michigan is home for a variety of hate groups
6 and hate entities. Here we are speaking only about
7 the organized hate groups, the individuals that
8 band together specifically for the purpose of
9 engaging in bias related activity, against
10 religious, racial, ethnic or nationality minorities.
11 The best known of these organizations is a loose
12 collection of autonomous related groups operating
13 as Neo Nazi Skinheads. I must quickly point out
14 that only about ten percent of what we call
15 Skinhead groups are Neo Nazi. Indeed among the
16 other ninety percent are groups committed against
17 hatred and prejudice.

18 The SIDS, for example headquartered
19 outside of Pontiac, require an oath against
20 prejudice of any kind, in order to join. We do
21 have the Neo Nazi Skinheads in our area as well.
22 They tend to center around the Metro Detroit area
23 and places like Auburn Hills, and Rochester,
24 Birmingham and Southfield, down to Gibraltar and
25 out to Westland.

1 Groves High School in Birmingham, a fe
2 years ago was defaced by four Neo Nazi Skinheads
3 who came from Ann Arbor, Grosse Pointe, Canton
4 Township and Berkley. The total number of Neo Nazi
5 Skinheads in this area could be in excess of one
6 hundred. Since their names are rarely accurate they
7 frequently use multiple names and they seek to
8 deliberately obviate the actual slander.

9 In addition the Neo Nazi Skinheads
10 stretch across the State with Flint, Jackson, Grand
11 Rapids and Muskegon as areas of highly organized
12 activity. Additionally, individuals frequently ac
13 on behalf of either multiple groups or the same
14 group with multiple names.

15 Wesley Branson, for instance, is a case
16 in point. He is a member of the Downriver Skins,
17 and has distributed flyers for Wite Folks, that is
18 spelled w-i-t-e. The Neo Nazi, not Skinhead groups
19 are known as the SS Action Group is also an
20 organization where Wesley is active as well as the
21 White American Freedom Fighters, a Ku Klux Klan
22 type group, the Realm of Michigan.

23 In Muskegon, the Neo Nazi SS Action
24 Group is also a KKK type group called the White
25 Vikings.

1 In Clio, the United White Youth is also
2 a Neo Nazi Skinhead related group.

3 Another example is Richard Livingston,
4 of Madison Heights who was arrested in Washington,
5 D.C. in a demonstration against Nelson Mandela. At
6 that time it was learned that he heads up the Ku
7 Klux Klan Klavern here in Michigan, although its
8 membership may be limited only to himself.
9 Nevertheless, Livingston's KKK is also linked with
10 Neo Nazi Skinheads, the Michigan White Unity
11 Coalition and quite possibly other organizations.
12 Virtually all of the Neo Nazi Skinhead
13 organizations in Michigan are related to Tom
14 Metzger's White Aryan Resistance headquartered in
15 California or to the Aryan Youth Movement, headed
16 up by Tom's son, John Metzger. In addition to
17 violence, defacements and other property damage and
18 leafletting, these organizations have sought to
19 place Tom Metzger's racist television program,
20 "Race and Reason" on local cable television
21 stations, albeit, largely without success. The
22 vigorous and organizing efforts usually use local
23 high schools as the focus of their endeavors.

24 Church of the Creator is another,
25 perhaps the most active group in this area of the

1 state. Again, it is important to keep in mind man
2 members identified with other groups also operate
3 on behalf of the Church of the Creator.
4 Headquartered in Otto, North Carolina, lately a
5 change in leadership, the COTC as it is known is
6 violently anti-Semitic and anti-Black. Their
7 greeting and salutation is Rahowa(ps), which stands
8 for racial holy war, which they actively promote.
9 The principal activity in this area include
10 leafletting, nocturnal anonymous distribution of
11 their tabloid newspaper entitled Racial Loyalty and
12 the maintenance of two telephone hot line message,
13 hate message operations. One titled COTC Hotline
14 and the other titled, White Ranger Hotline. This
15 leaves messages including attacks against Jews or
16 "instigating a propaganda campaign against whites
17 and against the tens of thousands of whites who are
18 raped, beaten and killed by the subhuman Blacks."
19 That message ends with Rahowa. The other message
20 which ends with Rahowa, tell us that COTC believes
21 "that the White race is and always has been the
22 originator and creator of all worthwhile culture
23 and civilization."

24 Church of the Creator, which
25 incidentally ordains the activitists so that they

1 all use the title Reverend in the operation of one,
2 Ben Foston(ps), now in his late 70's. Foston, in
3 his turning over the leadership of the COTC to
4 Louis Stanko of Nebraska. The leadership change
5 will occur when he gets out of prison, where he is
6 currently serving time for having sold rancid meats
7 to the school lunch programs.

8 Stanko, is considerably wilder than
9 Foston and the likelihood is, that when he takes
10 over, the COTC will become more violent, more
11 radical. COTC is also closely related to the
12 National Association for the Advancement of White
13 People, David Duke's operation.

14 NAAWP maintains an operation here based
15 primarily in Warren, though claiming much support in
16 Westland, Dearborn and Downriver. Periodically,
17 Duke for President graffiti appears on highways,
18 bridges and stop signs. Periodically, they start
19 and stop, start and stop and turn over COTC
20 telephone tape message operations. They also
21 leaflet, sell memberships, distribute a newspaper
22 and try to fundraise for David Duke's political
23 campaign. Indeed in response to a negative article
24 appearing about David Duke in the Detroit Free
25 Press Magazine in March 10, four letters to the

1 Editor appeared on April 21st supporting and
2 defending David Duke, including one from an Edwin
3 Merkowski (ps) Metro Detroit Chairman of the
4 National Association for the Advancement of White
5 People. Three others supporting letters coming from
6 Westland, Battle Creek and East Detroit.

7 Perhaps one of the more radical and
8 significant hate operations in this area is a loose
9 knit coalition of independent racial supremacy
10 theology type churches, called the Identity Church
11 or the Identity Movement. Spread throughout the
12 county and especially in the Midwest, identity
13 churches are individually organized. They believe
14 in white supremacy, that Blacks and others of color
15 are "mud people" and that Jews are imposters and
16 not the true children of the covenant of God.
17 Frequently violent and always vicious, they operate
18 in Berkley, Adrian, Midland, Ortonville, East
19 Lansing, some say Cohoctah with Bob Miles,
20 Kentwood, Genessee, Centreville and elsewhere. In
21 short, the primary operation of hate groups in
22 Michigan have mostly focused in Southeast Michigan
23 and include the following organizations: REM
24 Confederation, Church of the Creator, Confederate
25 Alliance, Identity Church, Iron Guard of Holland,

1 White Unification Project, Jew Watch. KK, Michigan
2 Grand Realm of Michigan, Michigan White Unity
3 Coalition, Michigan White Power Confederation,
4 Northern Hammer Skinheads, United White Youth of
5 Clio, Downriver Skins, Arayan Learners League, the
6 National Association for the Advancement of White
7 People, SS Action Group, National Alliance, Storm
8 Troopers of Death, White American Freedom Fighters,
9 White Patriot Party, Wite Folks and Michigan
10 Populist Party; and this is to name only a few.

11 Again, let me repeat the caveat:

12 Many of these groups are the same people, some of
13 the people are in more than one group, many of the
14 groups are merely post office boxes, several of
15 which are operated by the same person. The
16 strategy, of course, is on the one hand to give the
17 impression that the racialist movement is seething,
18 teeming, alive and growing. On the other hand to
19 obfuscate the actual groups, the size and the place
20 enrolled in the hate movement. In truth, however,
21 the hate movement is alive and well but doesn't
22 really represent more than an undercurrent of the
23 political scene, exacerbated by individual
24 flareups, and occasional and irregular violent
25 acts. More accurately, in addition to recruiting

1 and organizing, the hate groups' activities include
2 fomenting discontent, focusing prejudices,
3 leafletting and other what is called psychological
4 warfare actions, minor property damage and
5 vandalism, harassment, threat and intimidation.
6 Occasionally there have been far more serious acts
7 including murder. For instance, members of the
8 East Side Vandals identified as Neo Nazi Skinheads
9 were convicted of murdering a young Black woman,
10 although their origins at that particular time
11 remained somewhat vague. The undercurrents,
12 however, don't abate. If your Letter to the Editor
13 gets published you can expect anonymous hate
14 letters. If you have an unemployed teenager not in
15 school, you can expect your child to be approached
16 by a hate group. Hate graffiti is always present,
17 and literature from leaflets abound. Occasionally
18 voices of the hate movement are heard on talk
19 shows. It is always a meeting or demonstration
20 somewhere. But we can expect that this problem
21 will get worse. We can expect that the numbers
22 will grow, the organizations will grow and the
23 activities will get more radical and more violent.
24 We know that economic downturns always exacerbate
25 stereotyping of minorities and always lead to an

1 increase in violence to persons and properties
2 associated with minority status. So far this year
3 we have logged twenty-years anti-Jewish incidents
4 in Southeast Michigan alone, including bomb threats,
5 death treats, phone calls, letters and grafitti.

6 Johns Hopkins sociologist Harvey
7 Brennan has documented the increase of these kinds
8 of acitivites for each one percent rise in
9 unemployment. And we must guard against the
10 message of intolerance or impatience with
11 minorities being transmitted by persons of
12 influence. Certainly Willie Horton has been
13 analyzed for the impact on human relations in this
14 country, as have President Reagan's antipathy to
15 minorities and minority aspirations, and the
16 implications of President Bush vetoing last year's
17 Civil Rights Bill and his opposition to the current
18 bill. Whether those are causes or effects, the
19 impact of racially intense politics are certainly
20 unmistakable.

21 Lastly, of course, are the schools
22 where more and more minorities are coming together
23 and where schools are ill prepared for the changes.
24 These issues in the final analysis are far more
25 important than the hate groups which for the moment

1 remain more the symptoms than the causes.

2 Detroit area radio talk shows daily
3 document the discontents, the resentment, the
4 alienation of many of our blue collar population
14 and which flirt with becoming populist politics are
5 more critical indices than the hate crime, although
6 the two are certainly not unrelated. I certainly
7 don't mean to imply that the resistant are
8 recalcitrance pertaining to the diversity change in
9 our society, are exclusive province of the blue
10 collar, nor that the blue collar sectors of our
11 society are universally resisters. Indeed, there
12 has been as much Neo Nazi-type activity coming out
13 of the affluent suburbs of Detroit including
14 Birmingham, as anywhere else in this area.

15
16 TORCH, Taxpayers Organized to Restore
17 our Cultural Heritage, are merely anti-Jewish
18 rather than racists who were a couple of years ago
19 a Bloomfield Hills phenomenon. Rochester and Troy
20 come to mind as well as Auburn Hills as mentioned
21 earlier.

22 DASH - Detroit Area Skinheads while
23 they existed were Southfield based. So there was
24 no evidence to suggest that prejudice or hate
25 groups or even bias crimes are some exclusive

1 province of the blue collar community.

2 We welcome this opportunity to discuss
3 even this tiny portion of the analysis of the local
4 hate movement, and of course, ADL will continue not
5 only to monitor and expose the underbelly of our
6 society, but to continue the positive programming
7 in which we have become so expert. Production of
8 human relations materials, organizing human
9 relations groups, teacher training, consultation
10 and intergroup relations working with other groups,
11 agencies and organizations, and working with
12 corporations government and government officials
13 are all areas which we will continue to pursue and
14 which we all must pursue in order to combat the
15 hate crime situation in Michigan.

16 We thank you and commend the Committee
17 for their interest in this area.

18 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you very much.

19 I have a couple of questions. The
20 groups that you named with all the extended
21 letters, Skinheads, Identity Church, and so forth,
22 what ethnic group of people are those organizations
23 made up of?

24 MR. BEITNER: You talk about ethnic
25 group, they primarily come from a range of groups.

1 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Are there any Black
2 SIDS? Are there any Black Skinheads or Church of
3 the Creator?

4 MR. BEITNER: You are talking Neo
5 Nazis.

6 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Are most of them --

7 MR. BEITNER: Most of them are white.
8 Most of them are Protestant."

9 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: What gender?

10 MR. BEITNER: They are both male and
11 female. It is surprising that so many of the
12 groups have auxillaries and perhaps the more
13 violent ones generally consist of the males. But
14 there is no proof of that in terms of who does
15 leafletting. They are getting support from all
16 genders, all ages, all economic stratas of society.
17 Again most of them will be White, most of them will
18 be protestant. They have a fair number of ethnic
19 groups represented by them, the ones that feel the
20 most aleniated and threatened in terms of stress;
21 but, it is all over.

22 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Follow up question:
23 Who do you think is the most hated group of people
24 on the face of the earth?

25 MR. BEITNER: That is, it is not an

1 honor to be the most hated group.

2 In this area, I would think probably
3 the Blacks are the focus of most of the greatest
4 and most extreme animosity.

5 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: The presenter before
6 said some people asked her to claim to be Mexican.
7 I can't claim to be other than what I am.

8 MR. BEITNER: I think it really depends
9 on which particular area of the community you are
10 from, and where the interactions are, of which type
11 of ethnic or racial or religious group you are
12 dealing with, which will shape your perspective.
13 Obviously any minority group that is strong and has
14 greater visibility is going to be a larger target.

15 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: One last question.
16 I am sure you have said probably Blacks; why?

17 MR. BEITNER: I think from my own
18 prospective, I think there has been a greater
19 history of racial animosity. Over the last hundred
20 years the threat that the American society, I
21 believe has felt over the number of years have come
22 directly towards the Blacks and not from other
23 groups. Threats from Jews, from Hispanics, other
24 minority groups are more of recent vintage and are
25 not as rooted in American society as the fear of

1 Blacks.

2 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thanks.

3 MR. GORDON: You indicated that there
4 was an increase in reports in '89 and '90?

5 MR. BEITNER: Yes. Last year there
6 were a total of, we had sixteen incidents of
7 vandalism and some incidents of threats against
8 Jews. We are already up to twenty-five -- we
9 would anticipate that would increase as we get
10 closer to Christmas season time, when there is
11 often a greater degree of animosity against Jews as
12 people go back to school and the like.

13 MR. GORDON: You indicated that a
14 number of incidents are approximately ten percent
15 of all incidents. How do you determine the
16 estimate is roughly ten percent?

17 MR. BEITNER: It is, it is just
18 probably an educated guess more than anything else.
19 There are a number of statistics and incidents that
20 we know about that, we know are not being reported
21 to us that we hear indirectly or third hand.
22 Unless we get a specific report against whom the
23 crime has been perpetrated, we can't call that as a
24 statistic. We know there are many of those.

25 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Well --

1 MR. GORDON: One last follow-up: Is
2 there a relationship between the number of
3 anti-Semitic incidents to the number of total hate
4 crime incidents?

5 MR. BEITNER: To a certain extent there
6 would be. In our studies, our statistics would
7 indicate that in a general period of economic
8 downturn there is increased level of intolerance,
9 increased hate activity against Jews, Hispanics or
10 Arabs or any minority group.

11 We are all facing the same type of
12 increase of incidents against Jews, a little bit
13 based on the fact of what is going on in the Middle
14 East. There are other issues that don't impact or
15 wouldn't be reflected in an increase against other
16 minority groups. It is all pretty much in tandem
17 with the rise of the --

18 MR. KOBRAK: Can you carefully
19 distinguish between blue collar discontent and hate
20 groups? But talking populist, that is perhaps a
21 rising track in the blue collar groups. Do you
22 envision that some kind of policy will expand both
23 the hate groups and the populists and bring them
24 together?

25 MR. BEITNER: Yes, one of the real

1 concerns we have is that again, the hate groups are
2 not the cause, they are the symptoms. Really they
3 are the outward manifestation, of what the large
4 bulk of society creates, and a lot of that is
5 taunted by the political atmosphere that we see
6 both in Washington, other regions of the country
7 and locally. You are getting a greater degree of
8 racially motivated police and as people coupling
9 the racially motivated politics with the peoples'
10 need to protect their own turf and in a time period
11 of economic downturn, you have a situation where
12 people just cling to what are basic, or what they
13 feel are the basic enabling rights. If that means
14 pushing off against others, that's what you should
15 do. Again, that runs the gamut. Even the
16 affluent, people feel that their homogeneous
17 environment is being changed, neighborhoods change
18 as peoples' economic interest and status change. I
19 believe they try to go back to the sources of what
20 they feel is their identity, that a white person, a
21 male, being a heterosexual, being a protestant
22 whatever, I think we will get a greater sense of
23 let's go back to the source of our own identity.

24 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Janet.

25 DR. FRAZIER: In Michigan, would you

1 say that we are dealing with more of the group
2 crimes committed against minorities or other ethnic
3 groups or dealing with more incidents of organized
4 populist response, bigotry?

5 MR. BEITNER: In terms of what our
6 statistics are based on, it is hard to tell whether
7 that is unorganized or organized. The ADL is very
8 active in monitoring the organized activity, and
9 structure of the hate groups themselves. So we are
10 probably a little more tuned in on what is going on
11 at that level. But again, the incidents may be
12 individually motivated or organizationally
13 motivated.

14 DR. FRAZIER: I was asking for
15 institutional change versus a climate change which
16 expands, but you don't see that?

17 MR. BEITNER: I think both changes are
18 necessary in most situations. Again, to the extent
19 that you can reduce the level of individual bigotry
20 and intolerance will increase the recruitment
21 grounds for organizations.

22 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay, Mr. Beitner,
23 thank you very much.

24 MR. BEITNER: Thank you for allowing me
25 to speak.

1 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Next presenter at
2 this time is Rebecca Lo, from the American Citizens
3 for Justice.

4 MS. REBECCA LO: Okay. Unlike my
5 colleagues who have been here this morning¹⁾ the
6 Asian American community or organization has had a
7 real hard time finding documented evidence of hate
8 crimes. The reason, or some of the reasons are
9 because of the community cultural experience, we
10 tend not to report it. This is a general case.
11 For every crime reported there is probably another
12 ninety that are not reported.¹⁾ We have a real
13 problem in terms of reporting crimes. Most of the
14 cases I have on hand are hearsay because of the
15 community size, most of them are located on
16 campuses where the community is tighter where
17 student organizations can pick up on it faster.
18 The other problem is once it is reported oftentimes
19 the police are not aware it is a hate crime, and if
20 it is indicated as a hate crime, we are put under
21 most often the "other" section.

22 So we are not indicated as Asians in
23 terms of anti-Asian violence. We are put as racial
24 incidents, other, in which case it is very hard to
25 track what is going on in the community as to what

1 is the increase or decrease of the asian violence.
2 However, I do have some cases. In fact one case
3 came to us from the Korean American community
4 after a large debate. One of the reasons why it
5 came to us is that the family had already left the
6 state, were on the way to California and there was
7 no threat of retaliation if this was brought out.

8 In the Fall of 1990, we had a case of a
9 seventeen year old boy in Westland, Michigan who
10 was beaten by ten other people. On the police
11 report it does not indicate what racial background
12 they are from. However, he was beaten to the point
13 where when he arrived in emergency the primary
14 medic noted that he had severe head injuries, loss
15 of conscience and possibly death. He was in and
16 observed in ER for several hours before regaining
17 consciousness and that is when -- he didn't have a
18 command of English language. He was very scared,
19 he wanted to be released to go home. The reason it
20 came out to the community was because when the
21 parents received the billing of it, they were very
22 concerned it was not only very expensive fee, but
23 there was some type of head injury. So it came out
24 in the community and we were able to track it down.
25 Sang Lee(ps) who was the seventeen year old boy

1 refused to press charges and the family packed up
2 and left two weeks after the investigation. That
3 is what we have in terms of a typical community
4 incident where the community tries to come in and
5 take over in terms of coping and support. But
6 there is not a lot of encouragement in terms of
7 handing of the evidence to the police. The police
8 were more than ready to help. Unfortunately if
9 they don't file charges, there is nothing the
10 police can do. Fortunately, we got the files on
11 this. That is typical of the community. It can be
12 pointed out, people will track you down and you
13 will be retaliated against. That is the attitude,
14 and we have a real hard time on that.

15 In 1988, there was a case in Okemos. A
16 man by the name of Nang Kim Lee (ps) was an
17 immigrant family from the Peoples Republic of
18 China. There was a father-son domestic quarrel in
19 which the police were asked by the neighbors to
20 come in and break it up. At the time the son was
21 very despondent and returned to the room. Because
22 of the way it looked and sounded to the police they
23 ended up breaking in, rushing in, arresting the son
24 and taking him to jail. The son refused to give up
25 his passport or sign forms for fear of being

1 deported. What he did not realize was at the time
2 if he did not sign forms, he would not get an
3 attorney and could not get visitation rights. So
4 he was incarcerated for three months without a
5 trial. The judge took the case because he was in
6 jail for so long and there was really no case. It
7 was a domestic quarrel, it was a misunderstanding.
8 No one was available, in terms of communication.
9 And in terms of communication, no one was available
10 to do interpreting for the young man.

11 We have another incident in Riley
12 Center, Michigan and we don't have a date on that.
13 What happens was that the neighbors were boycotting
14 the grocery store. When that didn't work, what
15 they did, was they started to do violence, and
16 there was damage to the property. What finally
17 ended up, there was some type of fire of the
18 grocery store. It was gutted and it is obviously
19 suspected that the arsonists were the people who
20 were trying to stop the grocery store owners. They
21 were harassed by the grocery store owners, this
22 couple has finally left that area.

23 We have lots of incidents in terms of
24 students, but the problem is that students tend not
25 to say anything. They feel so isolated. I talk to

1 student leaders at University of Michigan where
2 there was a case of two Asian-American students
3 walking in the daylight hours in the Fall of 1990
4 in the Diag. They were approached by ten white
5 fraternity members. There was verbal exchange and
6 the ten proceeded to jump on the two. That was,
7 the only reason that was even leaked out was
8 because there was some fear that one of the Asian
9 American students suffered severe injuries. The
10 two were afraid to press charges and stated that
11 they were afraid of retaliation.

12 We have a case in Michigan State
13 University in which they have been continuing
14 incidents. It is ongoing thing. Asian students
15 are harassed, racist comments come out.

16 There was an incident that happened in
17 '88, in which the Asian-American student actually
18 retaliated. He had to go by this table several
19 times. Each time he went by, they would have some
20 type of comment. So he went around gathered up all
21 of the Asian-American students which came to about
22 ten. And he basically said, "say whatever you have
23 to say to me, you can say to the rest of us. So go
24 ahead." And that stopped it for a little while.
25 But it is still going on. It stopped the two that

1 were at the table from harassing him.

2 So according to the Coordinator of
3 Student Affairs at Michigan State, they have gotten
4 an increase in terms of cases reported as to Korean
5 and Japanese in terms of students, which is a
6 discrimination by students as well as faculty
7 members, when it comes to hiring for jobs, research
8 assistants, teaching assistantships, checking
9 papers, there is a discrimination in terms of
10 language barriers. If they have a thick accent,
11 then obviously they are not qualified to check
12 papers. That is the rationale involved. Most of
13 the time the jobs are given to white students who
14 have no problems in terms of communication. There
15 are also bad experiences in terms of Asian
16 students, in terms of individual professors.

17 There is also cases in which
18 Asian-American students are hired as staff members
19 in halls that are predominantly fraternity or
20 sorority heavily residing there, and the tension in
21 terms of racial jokes goes on to the point where
22 the staff members have a definite hostility. On
23 the bulletin board with cute little pictures that
24 have slanted eyes and buck teeth caricatures on
25 them. It is a very subtle thing. No one is being

1 physically attacked, but the psychology of it is s
2 hostile that a lot of the students tend to go back
3 into whatever groups that they are in and just not
4 deal with it. They stop applying for jobs in terms
5 of resident hall advisors.

6 Nan Kim has noted that since she has
7 been on campus, not only as a student but also as a
8 professional in terms of representing
9 Asian-American students there is a trend to be more
10 overt, more aggressive in terms of racism and in
11 terms of what people say. Noting however, that
12 there is a certain amount of freedom of people that
13 cannot be denied on campus, therefore people
14 exercise their right to a point of hurting someone
15 else.

16 University of Michigan, one of the
17 student leaders at the University of Michigan Asian
18 Student Coalition indicated that it is getting to
19 the point where it is very common for any Asian
20 American to pass by a group of non-Asians and hear
21 things like "gook head" or "oriental baby." Asian
22 women are being harassed more because it is less of
23 a stigma coming out with racial comments. That
24 women tend to walk in groups, to begin with, but
25 now they are being escorted by male Asians to feel

1 more protected. There is a real problem in terms
2 of just staff representation on campuses. If there
3 was any avenue to teach someone to relate or
4 understand what they are going through, at
5 University of Michigan there is no
6 Asian-Pacific-American representation in the Office
7 of Minority Affairs, even though at least this term
8 Asian-Americans account for the largest minority
9 group on campus. They are six point nine percent;
10 and the next is Black students at six point six
11 percent. So there is a real problem in terms of not
12 only having the courage to say something, but those
13 who have the courage, there is no avenue to express
14 it. There is a real hassle if you go to a student
15 representative who doesn't think there is a problem
16 and you are trying to convince them, and they are
17 trying to mitigate it. The forms of racism come in
18 terms of faculty members and student staff and is
19 very subtle at the time. It is not an overt, we
20 don't want you here, go home type of thing. It is
21 more, there it is not a problem, perhaps you are a
22 little too sensitive about this; that is a real
23 problem. When people start to think we are being
24 too sensitive, and they are being desensitized.

25 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: How much more time

1 -- do you need?

2 MS. LO: I have lots of interesting
3 anecdotes. If you want I can write them down and
4 send them to you.

5 My actual concern is what is going to
6 happen in terms of how you are going to open up
7 dialogue so there is less hostility in terms of
8 Asian-Americans. The problem is every time we have
9 a downturn in the automobile industry and hear or
10 see or read in the newspaper that Japanese are
11 buying up property or things like golf courses or
12 factories or property and using gold bullion, or
13 whatever, yes, it affects us. We are being used
14 and I maintain this as a concept. We are the
15 concept of being the invaders. I was born in
16 Detroit. I have no problem with being an American,
17 but someone out there has a problem with me being
18 an American, because apparently I dress too well.
19 My family is doing well. We are obviously not
20 buying golf courses up, because we have land here.
21 It is something like a a threat that people have
22 the psychology that we are being aggressive and
23 undermining things. That is the real problem. We
24 need to have dialogue. Most of the problem is a
25 misunderstanding. For us, the hatred that has been

1 created in the last fifty years. What we need is
2 to open up dialogue and get rid of a lot of the
3 stereotypes.

4 I have some solutions if you would like
5 to hear them.

6 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: I was going to say
7 some of us because we like to play golf at various
8 country clubs and the like, just as we like to do
9 equestrian horse riding, Blacks, some of us are
10 being accused of trying to be white. But I always
11 come back and say what ethnic group has any claim
12 on anything?

13 You want to give us solutions?

14 MS. LO: Yeah. It really comes down to
15 communication, especially in terms of school
16 children. It starts very young and my
17 recommendation is that primary and secondary
18 schools program their cultural activities be
19 increased. I happen to know that in my own high
20 school, they are starting to do that, because of
21 the new mix of people coming in. It used to be
22 predominantly white farming community in my area
23 and now there is an influx of immigrants coming in,
24 more foreign nationals, more Asians, not
25 Asian-Americans, more Asians. There are more

1 Arabs, Arab-Americans moving into the area and more
2 African-Americans coming in. So with this new
3 group supposedly come in, there is a lot of tension
4 and what they have done is to open up new programs.
5 Now it is no longer just French, German and
6 Spanish, but they are offering Chinese, Japanese
7 and Russian, too. If you try to expand what they
8 are learning in terms of curriculum, for me World
9 Literature was western literature, I had one
10 chapter that covered about a half hour in terms of
11 Eastern Literature. I find that amazing
12 considering Chinese have been around for thousands
13 of years and then there is only thirty minutes left
14 for Chinese, Japanese and Korean and Phillipino
15 literature. If there is more opportunities for
16 exposure in school especially primary and secondary
17 schools, it is going to go into -- it is going to
18 have a better climate on the campuses when the
19 people graduate and become professionals. We have
20 to start young, and it is actually cheaper to start
21 young to clean up the mess we have now. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any questions?

23 MR. GORDON: In terms of some of the
24 incidents which you have heard about, are the
25 perpetrators primarily Caucasian males?

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MS. LO: They are actually
predominantly Caucasian males.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any other questions?

I have noticed from the various
presenters, that they tend to cross or are crossing
all of the lines. Number one, hard time reporting
crimes and the fear of the law enforcement agencies
in reporting and getting reports. Racial politics,
know of very few avenues to express oneself, and
downtime in the economy has been mentioned by
almost every presenter. Those are some of the
things that continuously seem to be mentioned and
to raise its head. If you notice all of these can
be manipulated, all of them can be manipulated.

Any other questions? Okay.

I want to thank you very much.

Next presenters if I pronounce the names
correctly. Jose --

MR. JOSE CUELLO: Cuello.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: And Elena --

MS. ELENA HERRADA: So far so good.
Herrada.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Herrada.

Randy --

MR. CUELLO: Randy is not here.

1 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Would you spell your
2 name for the reporter?

3 MS. HERRADA: H-e-r-r-a-d-a.

4 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: And Jose?

5 MR. CUELLO: Jose C-u-e-l-l-o. I will
6 leave a card.

7 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Jose is Director of
8 the Center for Chicano --

9 MR. CUELLO: Boricua.

10 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Boricua Studies.

11 MR. CUELLO: At Wayne State.

12 MS. HERRADA: Chair of the Political
13 Empowerment Committee of the Detroit Boricua
14 Agenda.

15 MR. CUELLO: That is a document we have
16 just put together in a few years and I would like
17 to offer it for you for the record, if I may.

18 I would start with general
19 introductions and then others can help me with some
20 of the specifics. I think we are coming at a good
21 point, all of the things we have summarized we fall
22 in to the pattern. It is one more example that we
23 have seen across-the-board, like with the Asians we
24 tend to have a non-reporting of incidents. It may
25 not be as many actual incidents of violent actions

1 towards Hispanics, but the climate towards
2 Hispanics or discrimination towards Hispanics is
3 pretty sharp. We suffer to the extent that it gets
4 into the physical violence or harassment primarily
5 from institutional violence; and we are talking
6 about the police. For example, a little while ago
7 when it looked like there was a cutback in police
8 force in Detroit, they needed or seemed like they
9 needed an excuse to be important so they made
10 sweeps of Hispanic neighborhoods and arrested
11 hundreds of kids in just a matter of weeks or
12 months. And I remember one parent telling me her
13 son was arrested several times in front of his own
14 home. And she finally told him, you can't go out
15 and there was an actual curfew established. On a
16 record basis, when you don't have that kind of
17 sweep, we do have a case of them harassing kids and
18 other people in Dearborn and Detroit.

19 Let me just tell you a little bit about
20 the attitude towards Hispanics and we prefer to put
21 it in Detroit, because I think while it is not gone
22 into a violent stage yet, it very well easily
23 could. It is on the edge, where a downturn in the
24 economy, an additional downturn in the economy, if
25 instead of the Detroit economy going up, we figure

1 we can't go any lower. If it did go lower, we
2 would have that kind of mechanism coming into play.
3 For example, traditionally, Mexicans have been
4 deported from, not only California, but Detroit and
5 Chicago in times of economic downturn. At those
6 times, it is not only citizens of Mexico, but
7 citizens of the United States where the
8 documentation was not looked at very closely: You
9 are a Latino, let's move you out. There are
10 things, it happened in the 30's, but it has
11 happened as recently as in the 1950's. There was
12 Operation Wetback, people were rounded up and
13 shipped to Mexico.

14 I want to give you an overview of the
15 kind of conditions that exist in Detroit. One is
16 that in terms of numbers, the census reported about
17 twenty thousand, twenty-eight thousand Latinos in
18 the City of Detroit. We think it may be two or
19 three times that much. But in terms of the
20 reporting factor, we don't know. The census
21 reports fifty thousand total in the county and in
22 the tri-county, or four county area, eighty-five
23 thousand Latinos. And that makes us still a very
24 small population within the Detroit area. It makes
25 us a minority within a City that is a minority and

1 that creates peculiarities, because Detroit has --
2 well, Detroit's been there wherever the rest of the
3 country is going, and we will start with the
4 solutions here.

5 One of the products, byproducts of the
6 Detroit experience has been a war time mentality in
7 which it has been Black versus White, the suburbs
8 versus the city. And what happens when you are in
9 that war time mentality, both groups not only the
10 Whites but the Blacks as well tend to think only in
11 terms of Black and White. There is no other group,
12 because of the other groups like the Asians, like
13 the Arabs or Latinos, are too small to seize
14 political power by numbers and call attention to
15 themselves in that regard. And so the Whites, when
16 they are looking, for example, at affirmative
17 action programs, whether appropriations for the
18 city, okay, all we got to do is get enough Latinos,
19 and we don't have to worry about the Latinos, or
20 the Asians.

21 The Blacks in Detroit justifiably feel
22 that they are just barely getting ahold of power
23 and here come the Latinos and say, we need to share
24 the pie. They are perceived not as another ethnic
25 group, but really surrogates for Whites. The

1 Latinos to the Blacks, you know, you guys are going
2 to shut off our attention and our power and we got
3 to protect ourselves against you guys because
4 basically you are just one more group to come over
5 and try to step over what the Blacks have achieved.
6 So it is a very racial situation. There is a
7 danger, it hasn't really arisen in anything in a
8 dramatic sense or a sense of violent confrontation.
9 There is a danger that you could have, you could
10 have a chain effect in which white racism leads to
11 a struggle by the Blacks, but the Blacks still
12 struggling to get a piece of their pie become Black
13 racists looking at the Latino population, because
14 they are seen as a threat. That is a peculiar
15 situation, here.

16 And what happens when you don't get the
17 affirmative steps for redress and things just get
18 worse. And it happens in employment, it happens in
19 education. When you talk, the last person here,
20 Rebecca Lo talked about the need for multicultural
21 education in the Detroit Public Schools. So far
22 they have achieved, the day in which
23 African-American history has been introduced. But
24 there is a strong resistance to have multicultural
25 history. So at one point the Blacks have to

1 struggle to get the school system to adopt a decent
2 set of books that would include Black history in
3 it. It was all European history. Now they have
4 Black history in it. But then, they are resisting
5 the idea of introducing third world history, Latino
6 history. You have schools, for example,
7 Southwestern High School in Detroit that is going
8 to get an African-American curriculum, but very
9 little on Latinos; and that is forty percent, forty
10 percent Latino. So, it is a very difficult
11 situation and what we are trying to do through the
12 Detroit Latino community is to try to create a
13 climate in Detroit that will lead, because of some
14 economic downturn or some other downturn cause the
15 ethnic groups to divide among themselves and then
16 leave -- what is going to be left after the war
17 between the ethnic groups; the same old white power
18 structure. So what we want to do is build strong
19 coalitions among Latinos, Blacks, Asians, Arabs and
20 try to promote it. And the only way that we feel
21 this can be done is through a broad perspective
22 multicultural education, in which as Rebecca Lo
23 said, cause the very young to begin to get used to
24 the idea that humanity is made up of a rainbow of
25 colors. That you want to tolerate other cultures

1 for the protection of other cultures is the
2 protection of your own culture; and to be able to
3 appreciate your own culture does not mean that you
4 have to hate the rest of them. That is kind of the
5 introduction I want to give you and to help you
6 with some specifics and we can talk about, even
7 outside of the Detroit area.

8 The farm labor situation, in terms of
9 us, is a violent situation in terms of the
10 conditions that exist.

11 MS. HERRADA: One thing that Rebecca Lo
12 has said or the reverse of it is that we are not
13 considered the threat to minorities. We are not
14 overly represented or too well dressed for what we
15 should have. So we don't represent a threat to
16 anyone in terms of the kind of violence to be
17 visited upon us. We are not prone to that because
18 we don't -- we don't threaten anyone physically.
19 What we are used for often is pawns for affirmative
20 action quotas. When most, most corporations often
21 would sometimes deal with Latinos rather than
22 Blacks because they are less of a threat to them.
23 Somebody said we make better house pets than Blacks
24 and we don't threaten the status quo, and we kind
25 of blend more into what is status quo. We are used

1 as pawns in the scheme of affirmative action.

2 Also the undercount of Detroit Latinos
3 makes for us to not be any threat to any one when
4 considered less than one percent of the Detroit
5 population. And the undercount which is
6 phenomenal, they are saying twenty-eight thousand
7 was predicated on census figures, census forms
8 which were sent to individual homes in English with
9 numbers to call for people in case they couldn't
10 read it, to call and ask for census forms in
11 Spanish. Also Latinos are also very leary of
12 answering census forms to begin with. It is the
13 feeling that there would always be immigration
14 sweeps after the census form was filled out. So we
15 have a history of reluctance to answer the census
16 forms to begin with. If you make it a little
17 difficult, we are highly unlikely to complete the
18 census forms, despite our having free dances where
19 you have to bring the census form for admission.
20 We did a lot of things to try to accomodate people
21 to fill it out.

22 We do have a tremendously low count in
23 Detroit.

24 MR. CUELLO: One of the instances to
25 get people to be counted, we couldn't get the forms

1 ourselves and help them fill it out. The
2 individual family had to call the number and get
3 the form. I understand the mechanics that you
4 don't want to have someone filling out thousands of
5 forms, I can deal with the basics of that. But,
6 you know, it did make for mechanical difficulty.

7 MS. HERRADA: So that accounts for a
8 lot of our undercount, for lack of political clout
9 in the Detroit area.

10 We do not have a district in which, you
11 can be represented on the School Board, City
12 Council, forget Congress. We can't get a local
13 representative in any area, because of the way we
14 were gerrymandered. A lot of it has to do with the
15 way our numbers are documented which has to do with
16 the language. So there are all kinds of really
17 entrenched problems, as to the numbers we do
18 represent in Detroit.

19 Another major form of economic violence
20 that is visited upon Latinos in the Detroit area
21 are the immigration policies with respect to
22 employer sanctions on hiring people who may be
23 aliens and employers are reluctant to hire those
24 who may have an accent, because they think they may
25 be penalized for possibly hiring illegal; and

1 rather than deal with the documentation or
2 possibility of false documentation. Also because
3 culturally we are reluctant to really raise hell.
4 We are not a culture of protest, and not a culture
5 of instigating. Latinos tend to kind of retreat
6 and not fight in terms of what other people would
7 find as blatant racism. These are the kinds of
8 problems that are applied upon our own culture.

9 DR. FRAZIER: Your time is fast and
10 since we are dealing with specific hate crimes and
11 not sociological problems that come through
12 discrimination and all kinds of problems that come
13 up in terms of what is happening in terms of our
14 community. Are there specific incidents that you
15 would like to report to us, that you would like to
16 have a part of the record where you feel actual
17 physical violence or acts of bigotry are being
18 inflicted upon your group?

19 MS. HERRADA: There are very few
20 physically violent acts committed against us, for
21 the reason as I stated. A couple of strange events
22 that occurred in Dearborn during the Gulf War
23 conflict: Latinos were beaten because they were
24 mistaken for Arabs. But other than that, we don't
25 have a lot.

1 MR. CUELLO: There is a general
2 harassment by the police. Secondly, that the
3 employment level: Where if someone does not speak
4 English very well they would be either not hired or
5 fired, even though the language skill is not
6 necessary for sweeping or doing other types of
7 work; that kind of discriminatory type of
8 rationale.

9 I don't want to forget outside of
10 Detroit in Michigan they do exist which I consider
11 physically violent and that is the status of the
12 where I would dare you to go in to a farm worker
13 complex and come out of there without throwing up.
14 No sanitary conditions, just poor everything.
15 Basically what you have is a slave labor force that
16 migrates and has to sustain itself. It doesn't
17 have -- the farmers, in this case the plantation
18 owner doesn't have the obligation to support them
19 throughout the year. They show up, pick the crop
20 and what is available is minimal. So that to me is
21 a form of physical violence that shouldn't be
22 overlooked.

23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I --

24 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Excuse me, you will
25 have an opportunity at 4:15 for open forum.

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I have a special
2 point with regard to this question since I come
3 from the same group and community.

4 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: All right.

5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Before there was
6 as a Gulf War --

7 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: You want to give
8 your name for the record?

9 MR. STEPHEN PABLO DAVIS: Stephen
10 Davis; Stephen Pablo Davis.

11 When Greyhound Bus Station moved from
12 downtown over to Lafayette and into the southwest
13 community, the Immigration Department began to make
14 sweeps and arrests of who they assumed were either
15 Latino and/or Arab, and pick them up and put them
16 in prison. It was so widespread we appealed to the
17 City Council, and you may remember this, and they
18 passed a resolution asking for a moratorium to stop
19 that practice.

20 MR. CUELLO: When the sweep isn't
21 taking place, the threat of immigration not to pay
22 workers by employers, for example, not to pay the
23 workers the bonuses or to give them their economic
24 dues. They know they will get reported.

25 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any other questions?

1 MR. MARTIN: There are large numbers of
2 Latinos living in areas, such intolerant places as
3 alluded to earlier. Are they pretty much free from
4 harassment by police and the other kind of
5 conflicts visited upon Blacks and others?

6 MR. CUELLO: I wouldn't think so. But
7 one of the surprising things in Holland, it is a
8 small town, they have actually been able to elect a
9 Latino City Council member. They have cooperated
10 to the extent that they, they have pushed Cinco De
11 Mayo, which is the national holiday for Mexico, one
12 week back. And instead of the 5th of May, they
13 have it during the Tulip Festival, so that they can
14 merge it with the general Holland celebration. I
15 think there are some other good things happening
16 there. But the other person who was scheduled to
17 speak, Randy Pacheco is from Holland and was going
18 to address some of the problems going on there. He
19 would have known better. Maybe I can encourage him
20 to send you something in writing on the conditions
21 in Holland.

22 MR. MARTIN: On the conflict between
23 Blacks and Latinos and other minorities fighting
24 each other for the small piece of the pie, we are
25 normally allotted, to your knowledge are there

1 national or local efforts to try to reduce that
2 problem?

3 MR. CUELLO: It is something that is
4 surfacing in terms of research and literature.
5 There is a recent issue of a magazine called
6 Hispanic that had an article of the future of
7 Blacks and Whites: Is there going to be coalition
8 making or more between the two groups? And in fact
9 Wayne State is sponsoring a conference on Latino
10 issues, the first of the year. One of the panels
11 we hope to have is a panel on Black-Hispanic
12 relations. How, why, what is the future of their
13 relations. One of the things that makes the Latino
14 issue so confusing is that Latinos don't really
15 identify in terms of race as much as in terms of
16 ethnicity. So that, for example, within my own
17 family, I have family members that I would look
18 Black to. And I would put another brother up here,
19 and he would look White. We are both coming out of
20 the same genetic family. I am somewhere in the
21 middle. I am a ski(ps) so Mexican. And Mexicans
22 are mostly, they are Spanish Indian but with a
23 distinct portion of Black blood. Two hundred
24 thousand of them were brought in as slaves during
25 the Colonial period, and they got integrated into

1 the Mexican population. Although if you come along
2 the coast of Mexico, you can see people who are a
3 little bit darker than me. For example, that is
4 why the U.S. Census has the race category,
5 Caucasian, Black, et cetera, and then Hispanic as
6 an additional category. Hispanic can be either --
7 any of those races.

8 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: I guess one final
9 point: The arrest point with the Detroit Police,
10 is that primarily a gang-driven?

11 MR. CUELLO: It is gang-centered.

12 MS. HERRADA: It is media-driven,
13 actually.

14 MR. CUELLO: There has always been a
15 gang problem in Southwest Detroit. There are many
16 action people that are saying, give us some help in
17 dealing with it. And so, instead, the kind of help
18 that we needed, it didn't come forth. The kind of
19 help that we got was a media blitz, in which all of
20 the sudden, for example, right today on the Dana
21 Show, they are interviewing a person called Dawn
22 Mendoza, which could have easily been named Dawn
23 Madonna, because of the way she has been blown up
24 in the media. There is a picture of her in one of
25 the papers where she is holding her head like this,

1 (indicating) you know. She could have been
2 Madonna. They are taking this one little girl and
3 blowing her into a huge gang problem. And then,
4 the media picks it up, and then the police come in,
5 and all of the sudden all Latinos are gang members.
6 It is sort of the homogenous stereotype. The other
7 thing, in terms of information, in Detroit there is
8 are communities, there are Mexicans, there are
9 Cubans, there are Haitians, there are Puerto
10 Ricans, and they all perceive a difference among
11 each other; and most people tend to homogenize us.
12 It is the same problem that Blacks had at one time:
13 all Blacks are the same. You are all one group and
14 we will treat you the same. That is another
15 problem we have in terms of, especially if you are
16 an individual and you want to convey to someone the
17 richness of your own kind of culture, and they are
18 talking about Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, et cetera.
19 That is another problem that we have to deal with.

20 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay. Thank you very
21 much.

22 Let's take a ten minute break.

23 (Short Break)

24 2:45 p.m.

25 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Can we get started?

1 The hearings are back to order again.

2 We will start this session by having
3 the Honorable Marryann Mahaffey, President of the
4 Detroit City Council. Ms. Mahaffey.

5 HONORABLE MARYANN MAHAFFEY: Thank you,
6 sir.

7 I am delighted to be here. I gather
8 that you are interested in hate crimes. I hope you
9 will bear with me as I interpret that as being more
10 than just actual beatings and the kind of
11 psychological actions and so on that occur just
12 short of physical beating. I think we all know and
13 you have heard ample testimony today about what is
14 happening in our society, the increase in the
15 distribution of hate literature, I understand
16 particularly in Northeast Detroit.

17 You have heard before about the actions
18 against Arab-Americans, Asian-Americans and if you
19 haven't heard it, you will hear or know about the
20 discrimination against Native-Americans, just plain
21 discrimination that goes on in our society against
22 people with different colors of skin, different
23 religions, et cetera, and different nationalities.
24 There are two groups I want to particularly speak
25 to today, in terms of their particular problems.

1 One is discrimination against people because of
2 their sexual orientation. The other is the
3 continuing and in my view increasing discrimination
4 against women. I will try to limit myself to a few
5 examples.

6 The -- with people who are gay and
7 lesbian and I know there are more who are going to
8 testify to that, there is an ongoing discrimination
9 that just simply never stops. It is in the City of
10 Detroit, even though our police regulations and
11 procedures call for law enforcement that has
12 respect for everybody and including people who are
13 gay and lesbian, there is continuous evidence of
14 examples of discrimination. It is everything from
15 the fact that there may be, that is a police
16 officer who hangs around Rouge Park on Sunday
17 morning because that is when some gay men play
18 volleyball. And he can figure out a way to write a
19 few tickets to help his tally; and those can be
20 everything from stopping someone on the basis that
21 you are trespassing when he is only walking across
22 the sidewalk or the path. Another example is the
23 gentleman who was riding through Rouge Park to
24 visit a friend on the Outer Drive-Tireman side on
25 his ten speed bicycle. And a uniformed officer on

1 a motorcycle stopped him and said you have safety
2 violations on your vehicle, and you must get out of
3 the park and proceeded then to make him carry his
4 bicycle out of the park while he stayed about three
5 feet behind on his motorcycle and made him carry
6 the bicycle down the stairs. And in my estimation
7 this is intimidating and discriminatory behavior.
8 When I became President of the Council I received,
9 actually I received two calls before I caught onto
10 what was going on and stopped them. One call was
11 to tell me that someone had been arrested and given
12 a ticket for soliciting in a gay bar. My reaction
13 is, is that a felony or a misdemeanor? It is a
14 misdemeanor, then why are you calling me? Well, you
15 are the supervisor. You are in charge of the unit.
16 This is a personal matter on the part of this
17 individual in violating the law and the law follows
18 through on it. You don't have to call me about it.
19 In effect what it was doing was, it was also saying
20 to someone if they cared about it and chose to use
21 it, that this person was gay and therefore you
22 could take it into consideration in how you behaved
23 towards your employees. Another one was about
24 parking tickets. I checked with the police
25 department, they are only supposed to report when

1 there is a felony. I said to them, don't you call
2 me anymore on these. You are not supposed to call
3 me on these. Don't do it. I don't want to hear
4 about it. It is a misdemeanor. Don't do this. I
5 was horrified, but this is the kind of thing that
6 goes on. And it is not a physical beating, but it
7 is very much of a psychological trauma for the
8 people who are at the brunt of it, because they
9 know it is because of their sexual orientation.
10 Our local Human Rights Department has been cut from
11 forty-four employees to twelve since 1974 which
12 further erodes our ability to monitor and educate
13 people including within the police department. And
14 I can give you, you know, I think those examples
15 are enough to give you an idea of what happens.

16 I get reports every so often about
17 officers in the precinct that services Woodward
18 Avenue just north of Six Mile where there are some
19 very fine restaurants and I happen to patronize
20 them from time to time. But there are also a lot
21 of gay people that patronize them. Sometimes the
22 police hang out there. It is a handy way to, you
23 know, to write some tickets. I think we need to pay
24 a lot more attention to that. We need more
25 enforcement and we need more monitoring from the

1 State as well as the local level, and actually I
2 would love to see the State have as a part of its
3 legislation -- as part of state law a provision
4 against discrimination on the basis of sexual
5 orientation. We still don't have that. We do in
6 Detroit, and we try to enforce it; but it is a
7 never ending struggle.

8 The second issue I want to speak to is
9 the issue of women and what is happening to women
10 today. As far as I am concerned there is an
11 increase in sexual harassment, and really almost a
12 "so what else is new" attitude in the community.
13 There are elected officials as well as business
14 people who sexually harass their employees. It
15 goes on all of the time. And of course, if it is a
16 woman employee, there is always the problem in this
17 economy: How do you handle it? What happens if
18 you lose your job because you don't grant the
19 favors that are being requested openly or subtly?
20 And this puts a heavier burden on the woman.
21 Recently I have been told that the Human Rights
22 Department in Detroit is receiving complaints about
23 sexual harassment that are about at the same level
24 as racial harassment and that this is a change in
25 recent years. I was told about a woman, originally

1 I wasn't going to say where, but it is a
2 southwestern suburb of Detroit who was picked up by
3 the police. She filed a complaint for harassment
4 on the basis that she was African-American. As she
5 described the situation it became very obvious that
6 she was also being subjected to sexual harassment,
7 everything from the use of words, to the
8 insinuations, et cetera. For some people they
9 don't seem to understand that a woman is a human
10 being who has the right to say, no.

11 I recently was at a conference for
12 women at Southwestern High School. I was both
13 surprised and not surprised that I received a
14 standing ovation because, not because it was me,
15 don't misunderstand, many of the young women didn't
16 know who I was. But, I stood up and I said to
17 them, you have a right to own your own body. You
18 have a right to determine what happens to it, and
19 you have a right to control it; and you have a
20 right to say, no. And that is when they stood up
21 and applauded. Because one of the things that is
22 happening today, is too many people including a
23 sixth grade boy if they take a young woman out on a
24 date when the time comes that they date and some
25 are doing it now in the sixth grade or when they

1 buy her something, ice cream or something like
2 that, that she owes them anything they want to ask
3 for including sex. And the people at the Rape
4 Crisis Center who have the responsibility and try
5 their best to do some educational rape prevention
6 programs are the ones that describe this to me.
7 They have been saying to me, we need to get down
8 into the first grade with training for young
9 people, both for the boys and the girls, that the
10 girls have a right to control their bodies and say,
11 no; and the boys have a responsibility to respect
12 that. At this moment that is not happening. When
13 I look at what is happening to women, I can't help
14 but point out also that as we are currently
15 concerned and upset and terribly worried about what
16 is happening to our young men in this society,
17 particularly young men of color and
18 African-American young men, there has been this
19 drive for an all male African-American Academy.
20 Well, what bothers me about it over and beyond all
21 of the legal arguments that have gone on in the
22 past is the rationale that is being used. And that
23 is what I want to address. The rationale is, for
24 example, encapsulated in the young men would say
25 that they think it would be a great idea because

1 they wouldn't be bothered by the young women.
2 Maybe it is time they learned to be in school
3 together, because they will have to work together
4 ultimately and learn how to study on the basis of
5 being equals rather than looking at the young woman
6 only as a sexual enticement or whatever. And it is
7 like blaming the young women for their inability to
8 study. There is another argument that is being
9 used and I think has to be addressed also and that
10 is that we keep being told that the problem is that
11 our young men are growing up in single heads of
12 households. Well, in our society that means, I
13 suspect that any one of you could supply the
14 phrase, that means the woman on welfare and in
15 people's eyes, that is the African-American woman:
16 The majority of those on welfare are White. A good
17 percentage are working underemployed. But you and
18 I all know of many instances of men and women
19 raised in single heads of household families,
20 whether it is a Conrad Mallet who is now President
21 of the Community College in Hartford, Connecticut;
22 we can all name people. But somehow it is all
23 being laid on the head of the woman. There are
24 heads of households who are male. There are heads
25 of households who are involved in the sexual abuse

1 of children. But the stereotype is that the woman
2 is at fault. I think this is very oppressive for
3 women and an indication of a kind of discrimination
4 and violation, if you will, of women. And it is
5 like in -- the increase is almost like it is open
6 season to hate women on welfare, to hate women who
7 are single heads of households. And it is
8 interesting to me that the major program that
9 serves women alone with children is the A.D.C.
10 program, which is a continuous target for cuts in
11 this country.

12 And I want to also point out that we
13 are seeing an increase in this City, it is not just
14 in this City, it is across the country, women and
15 their children being fronts for crack houses.
16 Sometimes they are involved, but not always. If
17 they are on A.D.C., if their allotments are cut, as
18 they suffer from lack -- we don't have equal pay
19 for equal worth, for comparable worth in this State
20 or country. And so the end result is if they work,
21 they are at lower levels, the crack dealer comes
22 along and I will help you to pay the rent. I don't
23 think they ought to do it. Don't misunderstand me
24 but at the same time, it means with the lowering of
25 income, it means with the free open season on

6
1 women, they are vulnerable to it. And I hope we
2 can turn it around, but I don't know that it will
3 happen immediately. Another example is that you
4 know, we get concerned about women, the young women
5 who are pregnant out of wedlock in their teen years
6 and we are going to go on a big campaign, if they
7 come to a public health clinic it takes six weeks
8 to get an appointment. And then you don't know how
9 much longer before you see the doctor. And in the
10 mean time very little is done about the young men
11 and what is their responsibility. It puts an
12 incredible pressure on people. And I think that as
13 we are talking about discrimination and hate crimes
14 we must not forget, please, the fact that the
15 targeting of women as the cause of the problems of
16 our young males is not fair, in my estimation. It
17 is like an easy stereotype to land on. I think
18 also the services that women need such as health
19 care are simply not there when you have to wait six
20 weeks to get an appointment. By that time, and
21 then you may have to wait even longer to see the
22 doctor. And yet we blame the woman when there is
23 an infant that is damaged as a result, all too
24 often in this society, not always.

25 I want to make my closing observation

1 in terms of womens' position in terms of elected
2 politics. Somehow there seems to be an idea that
3 two women on the Detroit City Council is enough.
4 We have lost ground in the state legislature,
5 relative to women in elected positions. And it is
6 everything from the, well, I am interested, I am
7 fascinated just to give a personal example. I won,
8 I came in first in the primary in 1989. People
9 maintain I came in, some people, first in the
10 General Election in '89 because someone said you
11 don't want a white female next to the Mayor with
12 the liklihood of becoming Mayor if something
13 happens to him. I don't know how many people
14 remember that the same argument was used against
15 Mrs. Henderson in 1981 and 1985, only they left out
16 the color. You don't want a woman next to the
17 Mayor. I think that is illustrative of an attitude
18 on the part of many that gets, that accompanies the
19 idea that there are not enough resources to pass
20 around. Therefore, what there are have to be
21 reserved for men and the women will have to take
22 their piece like two positions on the City Council
23 and the handful in the State Legislature and be
24 satisfied that Senator Stabenow has a position in
25 the leadership of the Democratic Caucus in the

1 Senate, and that Teola Hunter is President Pro Tem
2 of the House. The question is, we are fifty-three
3 percent of the population. So when we talk about
4 hate crimes and discrimination we have to be very
5 careful to remember that women are still a target
6 and we get used against people, all kinds of
7 people. We get used against people of color. We
8 get used against this, that or the other group and
9 we are still a long way and we are still under
10 quotas and we are still not getting paid on a
11 comparable worth basis. And it is something that I
12 believe should not be lost sight of, as you are
13 deliberating as to what we need to do to insure
14 protection for people, so they achieve their own
15 potential because we lose a devil of a lot in this
16 society when we keep women out or try to keep them
17 down. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any questions?

19 Barb.

20 MS. GATTORN: Yes, specially on the
21 sexual harassment of women in the workplace or on
22 the street. I know your background is in social
23 work, maybe you have opinions on why this seems to
24 be on the increase alone being abated in our
25 society?

1 COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAHAFFEY: I think
2 there are multiple reasons. I think there are some
3 people that believe that the women's movement has
4 met its mark and nothing more needs to be done. I
5 think there are some that believe that the problems
6 of women are of lesser importance. I also believe
7 there has been a laxity of enforcement. I have
8 been very impressed on what the Government
9 Accounting Office in Detroit is doing, they have a
10 regular program of evaluation. I can't tell you
11 how often they do it, but apparently several times
12 a year they do a poll to find what is happening to
13 gather together instances. They have training
14 sessions for people on what is sexual harassment
15 that include role play, et cetera, and there are
16 sanctions if somebody does sexually harass. We are
17 not doing that in the City. I don't know of any
18 other places other than that where that is going
19 on. I would dearly love to have instances of
20 regular evaluations and courses or sessions to deal
21 with sexual harassment that other people use,
22 whether it is state government, municipal
23 government, you know, school boards whatever there
24 is because I think there needs to be a better
25 exchange of that kind of education.

1 The Office of Women in Labor in Lansing
2 has done some absolutely magnificent material on
3 these. I don't see it being implemented, but I
4 don't see again that we are aware of what other
5 people are doing and therefore have a network of
6 support when we start to push for it at the local
7 level.

8 MS. GATTORN: How does the media fit
9 into this question?

10 COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAHAFFEY: Oh, I
11 think the media fits into it as they fit into
12 everything.

13 MS. GATTORN: I am speaking of TV,
14 books, magazines.

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAHAFFEY: Oh, yes.
16 I tried to cut my testimony and left out what is
17 happening in terms of the media, the TV, the
18 movies. I don't play the Nintendo games, I gather
19 there is a lot of violence in those. The women are
20 either love objects or helpless or stealing the man
21 away from his wife or things like that. But I
22 think one of the problems is that the printed media
23 and the TV media, the electronic media tend to
24 think in terms of reporting the unusual. So they
25 don't report on our young women, for example, who

1 win gold medals at the Scholastic Olympics in
2 Kentucky or Tennessee. We only hear about the
3 young women who at the fireworks festival beat up
4 on women. Wrong. Don't misunderstand me, terribly
5 wrong, something has to be done about it. But
6 enforcement, it takes more than enforcement; it
7 takes education. But it also means our media has
8 to give our young people a spotlight when they win
9 those Scholastic Olympics, so that they see women
10 as well as men praised for their intellectual
11 abilities, rather than for doing something wrong or
12 for being the local football star.

13 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any more questions?

14 DR. FRAZIER: I have a question and I
15 know we are running out of time, but I want to ask
16 whether or not you felt that since you raised the
17 incident of the beating here, that we a got a lot
18 of national press that we didn't need? Do you
19 think there is any trend of increased violence or
20 hostility, Black on White, White on Black as a
21 result of what is happening with the loss of jobs
22 in urban areas, and the kinds of frustrations that
23 I think people feel, or society feels, both White
24 and Black: Do see any of that increasing in our
25 urban areas? Do you think it is indicative of that

1 or more than --

2 COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAHAFFEY: Well, at
3 the age of 66 and a half, I have been through the
4 depression, second world war on up and I think
5 there is an increase in violence in general in this
6 country that disturbs me immensely. There is no
7 question that when there is a shortage of resources
8 and people are suffering, there is a tendency for
9 increase of trying to blame somebody else for it
10 and that tends to be those who are closest and
11 those who are different. Sometimes when there is
12 unemployment, I will never forget the guy who said
13 he left his family in Seattle because after being
14 laid off from Boeing he became aware he was getting
15 more and more violent. And that maybe if he left
16 them, he wouldn't hit his wife and kids. For
17 others it may be those who are different, the Asian
18 or Arab-Americans who comes in with a store, the
19 person of a different religion. What is different
20 I think is the degree of violence and the use of
21 weapons. When I was a kid you didn't have the
22 proliferation of handguns you have today. You
23 didn't have the availability of them to anybody and
24 everybody. And I think there is an increase in
25 solving problems with fists, which is why I like

1 the mediation programs of organizations such as the
2 Catholic Youth organization and others in this
3 town. We need to have mediation rules, I think,
4 for every school in the state so when there is an
5 argument kids are sent there and they are not
6 released until they have worked out some kind of
7 settlement, so it doesn't get carried over into the
8 street.

9 MR. HWANG: To address those complaints
10 relating to gay-lesbian community relating to
11 police harassment, is there a Community Relations
12 or Ombudsman's Department that is devoted to gay
13 lesbian concerns, or is there a hesitation to use
14 that Division?

15 COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAHAFFEY: There is
16 not and there needs to be. At the moment when
17 calls come to me I know certain officers I can go
18 to to get some relief. But it is not good enough.
19 There needs to be a special unit. The Civilian
20 Police Commission needs to be much more attuned to
21 this. I have been working with some groups about
22 exactly how we lay this out and haven't been fast
23 enough on it. I admit my failure.

24 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Last question.

25 MR. KOBRAK: Very quick: We won't have

1 time to pursue it. I wonder if there are any
2 programs or models as someone very familiar with
3 the Council over the years, you can recommend we
4 look at in terms of combatting hate crimes that the
5 City of Detroit is developing?

6 COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAHAFFEY: I am not
7 an expert in this. I think some of the people in
8 the NAACP and others could be probably more
9 specific. My own opinion is that we need to, we
10 need to have, we need to have more coordination
11 between the Departments through the Human Rights
12 Department which means they need a little more
13 staff and right now with what the economic
14 pressures are right now, I am not sure how that
15 will happen. I think that we need to get the
16 civilian groups together to meet to figure out how
17 do we get into not just city government, but state
18 government, county government? It isn't just city
19 government to tell you how to deal with the
20 problems. I don't think you can sit by and say
21 anymore what we had in the past is sufficient.
22 Okay.

23 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Councilwoman
24 Mahaffey, thank you very much.

25 COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAHAFFEY: We are

1 grateful from the City, and hope you will come back
2 and keep on this and not let it go down the drain.
3 Don't think because you have been here once, that
4 is enough. You have got to come back and monitor
5 us. We want to cooperate with you.

6 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAHAFFEY: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay. Next presenter
9 is Dr. Henry Messer and Marc Loveless.

10 Dr. Henry Messer is the Board Member of
11 the Lesbian Gay Foundation of Michigan; and Marc
12 Loveless is Project Coordinator, Michigan Lesbian
13 and Gay Anti-Violence Project.

14 MR. MARC LOVELESS: Mr. Chairman, May I
15 first ask that -- my presentation is actually
16 brief. We do have presentations of one to two or
17 three minutes. Can I ask them to join me up here,
18 and could you give your name for the record?

19 MR. JOHN MONAHAN: My name is John
20 Monahan. I am the President of the Michigan --
21 Gay Lesbian --

22 JEFFREY MONTGOMERY: I am a part of the
23 Gay Lesbian Foundation of Michigan, as well as
24 other community organizations.

25 MR. MATTHEW BOWER: My name is Matthew

1 Bower, Vice-President of the Gay Lesbian Council,
2 Director of the Lesbian Gay Foundation of Michigan
3 and Secretary of Human Rights Campaign Fund
4 Michigan Dinner.

5 MS. KAREN SUNDBERG: Karen Sundberg. I
6 am Past President of the Detroit Chapter of the
7 National Organization for Women, Administrative
8 Vice President of the Michigan National
9 Organization for Woman and on the Board of the
10 Michigan Organization for Human Rights.

11 MS. HARRIETT ARNOWITZ: My name is
12 Harriett Arnowitz. I am a member and spokesperson
13 for the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. I
14 am on the boards of a couple of other organizations
15 for lesbians and gays.

16 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay.

17 MR. LOVELESS: I want to thank the
18 Commission for setting this time aside to address
19 lesbian and gay issues. You need to be aware that
20 you are the first Commission, other than the
21 Detroit City Council and conferred in by the Mayor
22 that has looked upon and seen the issue of anti-gay
23 violence as a serious topic that needs to be
24 addressed. The others have chosen not to address
25 the issue not by just denying, but by some real

9 1 pragmatic decisions. The Michigan Civil Rights
2 Commission has chosen not to address the issue of
3 anti-gay violence because they say it is not
4 included in Elliott-Larsen; and so they are not
5 obliged to. The Attorney General has not responded
6 to, to the concerns of lesbians and gays and
7 violence because he does not see it as an issue.

8 Keep this number in mind: 883. Eight
9 hundred and eighty-three incidents is what we are
10 talking about, within the past five years. And that
11 is an underestimation because for each incident
12 that has been reported according to the FBI there
13 are at least five to seven that go unreported.
14 Since I -- I have -- Several things I will pass
15 out for the Committee, either Mr. Minnick(sic) or
16 someone might want to let you have. The first is a
17 statement and fact of the statute on hate crimes,
18 anti-hate crimes which indicates that anti-gay
19 violence has increased since 1981. In some areas
20 of the country it has increased like fifty percent.
21 The eight hundred and eighty-three incidents are
22 documented by our fact sheet, the Michigan Gay
23 Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, has put together and
24 it shows the incidents and the rate of violence and
25 the types of violence that have increased.

1 According to the 1987 report put out by the
2 National Gay Lesbian Task Force of Michigan ranked
3 as having the fifth highest homicide rate. That is
4 pretty shocking only to come back in 1989 where
5 Michigan has the second highest anti-gay homicide
6 rate in the nation. So it is law enforcement
7 officials and community leaders, it is their
8 responsibility to know this issue does not go away,
9 it only increases and it only impacts the total
10 community in an even more severe manner.

11 I would also like to give to you a list
12 of the people who have perpetrated these crimes
13 and where they are. Juries throughout the state
14 has joined with lesbians and gays and said that
15 anti-gay violence is not acceptable. We have
16 people serving time, from, the lowest is twenty
17 years to the maximum of natural life. That is from
18 juries from Detroit to Marquette. All of this will
19 be available to you. Also because I do want the
20 other people on the panel to speak, I am not going
21 to talk about what the anti-violence project would
22 like to accomplish. I have flyers for you that have
23 been completed. I will also leave with this
24 Committee a copy of a summary of the National Gay
25 Lesbian Task Force Report on anti-gay violence and

1 discrimination here.

2 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Marc, make sure that
3 Peter -- Pete, raise your hand.

4 DR. FRAZIER: We can tell you are
5 waiting to be heard.

6 MR. LOVELESS: Also I taught religion
7 for five years, so I get into this mode. You have
8 to forgive me.

9 I Also want to leave a brochure on our
10 anti-violence project, here.

11 Also I would like to refer to you, two
12 other books, which I did not bring copies of, but I
13 think the Commission is more prepared to get your
14 own copies. It is Violence Against Lesbians and
15 Gays. It is a new book by Gary David Comstock. It
16 is the first book of its kind. It documents
17 violence. This is the bible for people who are
18 working on anti-gay violence, is using. It is so
19 accurate. The first few chapters are so pertinent
20 that anyone on our project, on our violence should
21 read the first chapter. It talks about, gives some
22 areas as to why certain ideas are targeted for
23 anti-gay violence. There is another part of this
24 issue that I can't leave, before I turn the podium
25 over, turn the spot over to other people and that

1 is Anti-Gay Violence within communities of color.
2 I make that point and I cross my heart, and what I
3 mean is homophobia and heterosexism within the
4 Black community, Arab, Latino, Latina and
5 Asian-Pacific communities; that is something that
6 is killing us. You have to put yourself in a
7 position of a Black gay person, person not only do
8 I have to address and deal with racism within
9 society of a whole, but I have to deal with that
10 within the gay community. In addition to that,
11 when I go home, I still have to deal with anti-gay
12 sentiments, homophobia and physical assault.

13 Dr. Ron Simmons from Howard University
14 has done a paper on that which is in this book,
15 Brother to Brother. This book is a gay anthology.
16 There is another book that I recommend for the
17 people on the Commission to have, this is Black Gay
18 Men speaking about internal homophobia, hate
19 motivated stuff that goes on to us. Basically the
20 statement is as quoted from Marlin Mayes, "our
21 silence is broken. We are not tolerating anti-gay
22 violence within the Black community." If you know
23 of a Black social action group or civil rights
24 group that has not addressed the issue of Black
25 lesbians and gays, it has not addressed the issues

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1 at all of the Black community. If you know of a
2 gay or lesbian organization that has not addressed
3 the issues of Latino, Latina, Black, Hispanics,
4 Asian-Pacific and Arabic gays and lesbians, they
5 are not addressing the issues of the whole
6 community. As people of color and ethnic
7 diversity, we are not setting, we are not accepting
8 second place for anyone based on anything any
9 longer. Now that is said.

10 I have a wonderful panel of people who
11 have other forms of anti-gay discrimination that
12 they would like to address now. I begin with the
13 President of the Foundation of Michigan -- the
14 Michigan Gay and Lesbian Foundation, Mr. John
15 Winehatt.

16 MR. JOHN WINEHATT(ps): Thank you very
17 much, Marc. Because we are very tight for time, I
18 provided a printed copy of my testimony, which I
19 submitted, and I ask to be included in the record.

20 Briefly, the Foundation began its
21 Community Watch Coalition in January of this year.
22 In May of this year we developed a data base which
23 hopefully will be utilized to collect data
24 statewide data on hate crime statistics. Our
25 intial focus, of course, will be on anti-gay hate

1 crime, but hopefully, we will add to the coalition
2 other minorities included in the hate crime
3 statistic collection. We are experiencing some
4 rather difficult problems in collecting data. The
5 major concern that most people who are victims
6 have, is the fear of exposure, because they have
7 absolutely no civil rights when it comes to
8 protecting their jobs, when it comes to protecting
9 their employment. So they are extremely reluctant
10 to report. I suspect of the eight cases that I
11 submitted in my testimony, only three of those were
12 reported to law enforcement agencies. I don't know
13 what comes first, the chicken or the egg. We need
14 rights before we are in a position to fight what is
15 being perpetrated upon us. We can move along. I
16 promised to take a short time.

17 MR. LOVELESS: Harriett Arnowitz who a
18 representative of Parents and Friends of Lesbians
19 and Gays. This is a real strong arm in our
20 community for us, because these are our mothers and
21 fathers who are saying they are standing with us,
22 that they love us and they will fight the fights
23 with us.

24 MS. HARRIETT ARNOWITZ: I did
25 distribute a copy of my statement. I am a mother

1 of a gay son and my husband and I are active
2 members of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and
3 Gays, a national organization with two hundred and
4 and fifty chapters in all fifty states and eight
5 foreign countries and growing.

6 When you consider that there are
7 twenty-five million gays and lesbians in the United
8 States with parents and friends, it is a sizeable
9 number of citizens that add to our economy and
10 society. Fifty percent of lesbians and gays have
11 college degrees as compared to eighteen percent of
12 the general-public. Fifty percent of positions held
13 by gays and lesbians are managerial or professional
14 in nature. Twenty percent of the disposable income
15 in the economy is accounted for by lesbians and
16 gays. This is as reported in Newsweek and Wall
17 Street Journal.

18 The Federation of Parents and Friends
19 of Lesbians and Gays is an association dedicated to
20 the preservation of families in loving
21 relationships. To that end, the Federation is
22 committed to the support of gay and lesbian people
23 and their families and to the attainment by our gay
24 and lesbian children of full and equal human and
25 civil rights.

1 Our purpose is to educate society
2 regarding homosexuality, advocate equal human and
3 civil rights. Our purpose is to educate society
4 regarding homosexuality, advocate equal human and
5 civil rights of gay and lesbian people and promote
6 the health and well-being of gay and lesbian
7 people, including those with AIDS, and their
8 families.

9 In America today, there are millions of
10 parents with gay daughters and sons who are victims
11 of social, political and economic oppression. Gay
12 people in many communities are still obstructed by
13 prejudice in their pursuit of happiness and in
14 striving to live their lives with openness and
15 dignity. Homosexuals are not the only victims of
16 this oppression; it also touches their friends and
17 families. We, as parents and friends of gays and
18 lesbians feel that the time is right to join
19 together and appeal to the public conscience in
20 order to achieve equal protection for our daughters
21 and sons. We challenge society's status quo
22 attitudes. We have a commitment to actively help
23 our gay daughters and sons by working for the same
24 basic human rights, liberties and opportunities for
25 them that are enjoyed by the rest of us. As proud

1 parents of gay people, new windows of understanding
2 have been opened to us which have enriched our
3 lives. We want to bring this understanding to
4 everyone. If there is one person whose rights are
5 not protected by law, then all of us are at risk.
6 It is a license for violence.

7 MR. LOVELESS: The next presenter is
8 Jeffrey Montgomery, who is a member of the
9 Michigan Foundation.

10 MR. JEFF MONTGOMERY: Thank you for
11 having us here. Civil rights violations against
12 lesbians and gays are in a significant way more
13 insidious than those directed at other minorities.
14 We are an invisible minority. Outward
15 characteristics don't immediately identify a gay
16 person. A gay person has to tell you that he or
17 she is gay. There is the rub. Homophobia related
18 to discrimination or recrimination against gays is
19 so prevalent and often so vicious that many if not
20 most homosexuals are reluctant and even terrified
21 to be open about their sexual orientation. Today
22 we are seeing more openly gay people at every level
23 of every profession in all walks of life. But the
24 overwhelming majority of our society still makes
25 being out or self avowed about one's sexuality a

1 risky threatening position. As children homosexuals
2 are humiliated, beaten and turned out from their
3 homes. As adults, insult and injury are added to
4 insult and injury. Exposed gays lose their jobs,
5 their homes, their churches, their friends, their
6 children and not infrequently their lives. This
7 pattern is at odds with the way contemporary
8 American likes to see itself. Homohatred is a
9 blind spot. America rebukes all bigotry, even
10 while the same sacred -- straight america fails to
11 see the connection. Ones' sexuality or sexual
12 orientation is the most personal element or
13 significant element of ones' self to accept a world
14 wherein otherwise free people must live a daily
15 denial of self is to accept the world that is
16 fundamentally against what we promote and believe
17 is a free and open society. Exclusion of lesbians
18 and gay men from the benefits and protection of
19 civil rights legislation forces millions of
20 Americans to live lives that are lies, shameful and
21 life threatening. Acceptance of our life style can
22 not be legislated. But a guarantee of basic rights
23 and protection as citizens without prejudice can
24 and should be. Let's do the right thing. As long
25 as there is one among us that is oppressed, we are

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we all oppressed.

MR. LOVELESS: Now we have Mr. Matthew Bower, who is Vice-President of the Detroit Area Lesbian Gay Foundation of Michigan, a coalition of about twenty-one or twenty-five lesbian and gay organizations within the Detroit Metropolitan area.

MR. MATTHEW BOWER: I don't have a handout to give you, but I will test your visualization powers. If you can visualize me as twenty years old, without the earring, without the Harvey Milk button, and think back to maybe when you all had college aged sons, graduated from high school and had big plans. I had big plans when I graduated from high school. They were in the political arena. If I had done what I intended on doing, I would be a U.S. Senator right now. And that all changed, unfortunately, because of some compromises that I made when I worked for a State Representative, while I was in college. I found it to be incompatible to be gay and also be involved in Michigan politics, at least elected politics. And at the realization of that reality and the encouragement of my family, I entered the corporate America arena, the safe American arena. And then I became involved in a duality, or mixture of

1 lifestyles that many gay men and lesbians are
2 involved in, where they have a gay life and a
3 corporate life, professional life, social life all
4 of which, or none of which are connected. And
5 there are lots of us out there like that. People
6 who either cannot or will not or not in the
7 position to admit their homosexuality and maybe
8 that is what Jeff referred to as us being an
9 invisible minority. I will speak specifically
10 about hate and discrimination concerning
11 employment.

12 Within the safety of that corporate
13 setting, I was the victim of a smear campaign.
14 Someone decided that my homosexuality needed to be
15 exposed in the corporate arena. And, by way of
16 hate mail and use of a telephone I was exposed by
17 my employer. That in itself didn't seem to be too
18 big an issue despite the fact that I was shocked at
19 some of the things that were sent to my supervisor
20 and friend of the company that I worked for, in
21 the automotive industry. For some reason the rumor
22 that I had AIDS, and I don't have AIDS, and that
23 perception caused my employer to release me, after
24 what was a solid and full blown career path I was
25 onto. That is what got me involved in what I am

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involved in now.

It is impressive to be the Vice President of the Detroit Area of the Gay and Lesbian Council, and Director of this and Director of that, but I was involved in none of that at the time. But that incident and those acts of hate and violence against me put the fire back in my belly. I am not here for your sympathy. I am here to let you know that I have had a personal experience and have encountered many other people who have had similar experiences. Down south, the Cracker Barrel Restaurant employee situation where people are being released because they are effeminate or there is a perception that they are gay or lesbian. People I know in the retail business are released regularly on the basis of the perception of their gayness. A veterinarian that I know who was exposed to the same kind of hate and smear campaign and was able to overcome it in the courts.

As Harriett pointed out gay men and lesbians account for a lot of our resources, a lot of our talents and a lot of what goes on in our society. We have many contributions to make. I would like to ask all of you to use whatever influence you have to guarantee that people don't

1 have to go through what I went through, or the
2 people that I know, and to help us deal with the
3 fears and the anger that we have related to those
4 systems. Thank you.

5 MR. LOVELESS: Our next speaker is
6 Karen Sundberg, who is -- with the National
7 Organization for Women here in Detroit, our last
8 speaker.

9 MS. KAREN SUNDBERG: I have a handout
10 that you should all have and I will pick out some
11 of the main points, because we don't time.

12 I am here today because lesbianism and
13 lesbian rights, as well as gay rights, is a civil
14 rights and human rights issue. I am here also to
15 point out the oppression of lesbian and gay men in
16 Detroit and Michigan and in our country. How we
17 are oppressed, and some ideas on why this is so.
18 Many people believe that lesbians and gay men are
19 not oppressed or discriminated against, that one's
20 sexuality should be a private affair, and it is
21 really no one's business, don't tell what we are.
22 This attitude sidesteps the point that a major
23 reason most gay people feel oppressed is because
24 they must hide their homosexuality. The problem is
25 that we are forced to live in fear that we'll be

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found out and fired from jobs or lose children, not to mention loss of life or limb, homes, money or possessions, as well as more subtle forms of harassment and outright ostracism. And given the repressive atmosphere and climate right now there is a general perception that it is okay to treat us any way at all, and to commit any violence against us even to the point of murder.

What is the reason for this? Why do labels "lesbian" "gay" and "homosexuality" bring out such reaction from people? After all, almost no one cares any more who has sex with whom as long as it is between consenting people in private.

Well, I have news for you. Being a lesbian or being gay has nothing whatsoever to do, necessarily, with who you have sex with. Lesbians and gay men are hated and feared not for what we do in the privacy of our own homes, repulsive as that may be to some, rather we are hated and feared for far deeper reasons. Instead, it is because a lesbian is as any independent woman, any woman who does not ask permission or follow the dictates of father, brother, son, husband, or male friend. Any woman, straight or gay, who goes against the wishes of the men in her life, or, if there aren't any men

1 in her life, or otherwise upsets the applecart in
2 some way, goes against the established order, and
3 does not conform, risks being called a lesbian. And
4 it is this independence, breaking the stereotype,
5 that makes a woman a lesbian. Sooner, or later,
6 all nonconforming women are likely to be labeled
7 lesbians. In other words, you don't have to be one
8 in order to be called one.

9 But what of our gay brothers and why
10 are they oppressed? Again, it is a breaking of the
11 stereotype of what a "real" man should be. A man
12 loving a man sexually is seen as behaving like a
13 woman, and emulating women. To be female in our
14 culture is to be subordinate. To be male is to be
15 superordinate.

16 In fact, you may be interested to know
17 that the word "faggot" is synonymous with the word
18 male homosexual. Because hundreds of years ago
19 these men were thrown on the funeral pyre first, as
20 human kindling, in order to make the fire foul
21 enough to burn a witch. In the so-called
22 Renaissance, as many as eleven million women were
23 burned or hanged as witches, and thousands of our
24 gay brothers perished as well, to light those
25 fires.

1 I fervently believe that it will not be
2 until the oppression of women is ended that gay and
3 lesbian oppression will be over, too. And as
4 someone else said an abridgement of the rights of
5 any group diminishes the freedom of all of us.
6 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present
7 these ideas to you.

8 MR. LOVLESS: As we conclude I just
9 want to make a couple of points. Although none of
10 the panelists here have addressed it, the concerns
11 of lesbian and gay youth are ignored. And that
12 concerns this violence experienced when kids are in
13 school. It also includes suicide amongst lesbian
14 and gay people. The whole issue of suicide is a
15 real issue within communities of color.

16 We are going to close with Dr. Messer.
17 Dr. Messer is a member of the Alliance Board. He
18 is also a member of the Michigan Lesbian and Gay
19 Foundation. He is also a former member of the
20 original Manitshene(ps) Society which was the first
21 Lesbian and Gay, the first Gay male organization in
22 this country in New York and a Veteran of World War
23 II.

24 DR. HENRY MESSER: Not quite -- Korean
25 War.

1 MR. LOVELESS: Korean War. I know it
2 was something before me.

3 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: And retired
4 neurosurgeon.

5 MR. LOVELESS: Yes.

6 DR. MESSER: Homophobia is alive and
7 well in Michigan and it is doing very well. We are
8 the only group left where it is socially acceptable
9 to be discriminated against, for people to
10 discriminate against. It is not okay to be gay and
11 that is in distinction to every other minority
12 group. It is certainly okay to be Black although
13 Blacks are discriminated against. It is okay to be
14 Jewish. They won't tell you to give it up. But we
15 are told to just give it up, don't be gay anymore.

16 I wanted to comment on quite a few
17 things that I heard mostly this morning. Dave --
18 the Senator Dave --

19 DR. FRAZIER: Honigman.

20 DR. MESSER: Honigman, he wants to put
21 sexual orientation back into the bill, but it is
22 controversial; it may not pass. Why should that be
23 controversial? We have been unable to find a
24 member of the Michigan House of Representatives who
25 is even willing to introduce a bill for civil

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rights for gays and lesbians. For five years, there was one introduced some years back, but not a single one will even introduce it. They are afraid.

When the Michigan Supreme Court, I believe three years ago appointed special task forces to study discrimination in the court system, one was to check out the discrimination against women; the other one was to check out the discrimination based on race. We said, well, gays are the most discriminated against in the court system of any group. And they said, we don't want to study that. The Pentagon considers gays and lesbians unfit for military service even though, some of the generals in history, and certainly Alexander the Great was certainly homosexual.

You heard talk of Vincent Chin here who was beat to death. Everybody knows about Vincent Chin. But probably none of you ever heard of Wayne Watson. Wayne Watson was a man in Kalamazoo who was stomped and kicked by two men who considered him to be gay, as Vincent Chin was considered to be Chinese -- I am sorry, Vincent Chin was considered to be Japanese. They left Wayne Watson unconscious and under a overpass and went and got another young

1 man, a seventeen year old, called him out of a
2 party; and they went and got a sledge hammer and
3 flattened Wayne Watson's head. This was in
4 Kalamazoo, about the same period as the Vincent
5 Chin case. Didn't get any publicity. He was just
6 some other fag that got killed. Those men when
7 they came to trial, they prayed for them. They
8 never prayed for Vincent -- or Wayne Watson.

9 Right now in Ferndale there is a Civil
10 Rights Bill pending before the City Council. Four
11 members, five members of the Council have already
12 spoken against that Bill because it contains two
13 little words: "sexual orientation." I am not sure
14 they really believe in civil rights for anybody.
15 My guess is that they probably don't want Blacks or
16 probably Jews or whoever. But they wouldn't be so
17 hard pressed to deal with it if it didn't contain
18 those two little words: "Sexual orientation." So
19 they are dead set against passing that Bill
20 granting civil rights for people in Ferndale.

21 The NAACP today spoke about hate
22 allegations. We certainly have hate allegations
23 against us. And as soon as people say gay, they
24 say well they are child molesters. Well, I haven't
25 molested a child since I was about sixteen. Just a

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couple of days ago in Redford, the police stopped a car for a driving violation and there were two men in it, and they said if you fags don't get out of here we are going to run you in. It is common for gays who have a car and have parked near gay establishments to have windows or windshields smashed. Sometimes they steal something, sometimes they just smash.

When John Roy Castillo spoke this morning, he didn't mention gays at all. Why? Because they are not covered under legislation that sets up his -- his task force to work on. I also heard someone mention some very nasty bumper sticker. Have any of you ever seen a bumper sticker that says, "kill a queer for Christ"? They are around.

One of the biggest problems that we have is police harassment and that is an ongoing problem. I have here petitions with one thousand eight hundred twenty-three signatures protesting police harassment against gays and lesbians. Almost any time a group of gays and lesbians get together if you ask, if you bring up the subject of police harassment, a majority of almost any group can mention a time when they themselves have been

1 harassed because they were gay or lesbian.

2 Are there questions?

3 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: I have a question.

4 This gentlemen here.

5 MR. BOWER: Matt Bower.

6 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Matt Bower. I asked
7 a question earlier this morning of some people,
8 what gender group was responsible for the majority
9 of the hate crimes that affected them. And the
10 answer was: White males. Let me ask you this
11 question. You are a White male. How does it feel
12 being a White male and experiencing discrimination
13 and hate from other white males?

14 MR. BOWER: Probably the same way, not
15 probably, it feels the same way as it would feel
16 from anyone to me.

17 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: The reason I asked
18 that question, not too many White males have
19 experienced discrimination and hate. So if you
20 have it, tell me how you feel?

21 MR. BOWER: Well, it is hard for me to
22 pick words out, single words that characterize
23 that.

24 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Angry?

25 MR. BOWER: As I was on the way over

1 here, I thought to myself a word that was used to
2 explain President Bush's nominee for the Supreme
3 Court's experiences with prejudice and
4 discrimination and the word the media used was
5 sting. I wouldn't use that word only. I would say
6 that it is frustrating. Anger is a good word. I
7 am not sure there are words in the English that
8 describe it. Sting isn't strong enough. If you
9 are stung by a bee, you can pull the stinger out
10 and it will go away.

11 What I experienced and took place in my
12 life almost three years ago, it still makes me very
13 angry, although I am over most of the psychological
14 trauma that was involved.

15 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Was the boss White
16 that fired you?

17 MR. BOWER: Sir?

18 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Was the boss White
19 that fired you?

20 MR. BOWER: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: How did you feel?

22 MR. BOWER: How did I feel getting
23 fired? Very frustrated and very indignant... Angry
24 is probably a good word; very frustrated and hadn't
25 anything to do with the fact that he was White.

1 What it had to do was with the fact that I had been
2 with this company for over five years and had been
3 involved in its growth, a five time growth, from
4 one hundred employees to five thousand employees
5 during that time. I had been instrumental in
6 recruiting and hiring many of the people. I had
7 been instrumental in putting together training
8 programs for those people. That I had been
9 involved in ground breaking ceremonies for a ten
10 million dollar engineering center and things of
11 that nature, where I was trusted with dealing with
12 the Governor's Office and people in industry and to
13 have the rug, the rug yanked out from under me
14 because I was gay and because they perceived that I
15 was ill with AIDS, with the things that really
16 bothered me. It wasn't that anyone was White or
17 the incident was with a Greek or a woman or
18 whatever. These are people who were my friends,
19 whom I was close to in a lot of respects and had
20 nothing to do with the fact that anyone was White,
21 but the feelings I still have trouble describing
22 them.

23 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay.

24 DR. FRAZIER: The statement in response
25 to what you have just asked, I have a question: I

1 know you must have felt anger in losing the ability
2 to have your dream. But I think we talk about lots
3 of discrimination, and maybe what we heard today
4 that came from people who couldn't begin to dream.
5 So you probably can understand and appreciate
6 better the rage that they feel when they can't
7 dream.

8 Secondly, I wanted to know
9 whether anything has been done about numerous
10 incidents that I have heard about primarily in the
11 Palmer Park area, reported acts of violence on the
12 the gay community?

13 Can anybody respond to that?

14 MR. LOVELESS: Well, the basic -- you
15 mean recently?

16 DR. FRAZIER: Over the past year.

17 MR. LOVELESS: Over the past year.

18 Well, one of the cases -- we document is the case
19 about a homicide that took place within the Palmer
20 Park area, where they in fact murdered a man who
21 was not gay, but happened to walk by the area, walk
22 down the street. And the mob that attacked assumed
23 he was gay.

24 I would first answer the question and
25 bring up another point. The only thing that has

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been done, the community itself has been mobilized on anti-violence projects is one aspect. The petitions that Dr. Messer presented came from that. A lot of that are from people, gay and lesbian people who have been there and seen things happen to other folks. As far as the police response it has been, it has been poor to antagonistic. I -- and that is pretty much, that is the picture that I see from where I am at.

Another point to not forget about this violence that Matt talks about, and everyone talks about: it is perceived that you are lesbian or gay. Colon Gay Shepherd was perceived without conversation, without dialogue, the group that had gotten together for the purpose of beating and robbing lesbian and gay people saw him walking down the street, said there is one, without question ran after him and beat him and beat him to death. So, the very fact that this Commission is hearing this could be perceived by hate people, by hate motivated folks that you are sympathetic to lesbians and gays and people could come after each one of you, in this whole room collectively. That is the whole underlining or the real statement of how insane this is, and how we as a society, not as

1 lesbians and gays, but as people who live in
2 America should say this is not acceptable and it
3 should not be tolerated.

4 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Joan.

5 MS. WEBKAMIGAD: When you experience
6 violence from police organizations, who do you
7 report it to; who do you turn to?

8 MR. LOVELESS: We report it to the Cop
9 Watch Program, Anti-Violence Project, we report it
10 to the Lesbian Gay Community Center -- in our
11 brochure here, we have --

12 DR. MESSER: Joan's question was:
13 which authority do you report it to?

14 MR. LOVELESS: Well --

15 DR. MESSER: Yes --

16 MS. WEBKAMIGAD: I am glad that you are
17 keeping track of it within your organization,
18 but --

19 DR. MESSER: Because they don't.

20 MS. WEBKAMIGAD: Yeah.

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sometimes to
22 Maryann Mahaffey.

23 MR. BOWER: In that regard, let me
24 bring out something here: One of the other
25 Directors of the Lesbian Gay Project, there was an

1 incident where a young man outside of a a bar that
2 is near Seven Mile, if you know the Palmer Park
3 area, it extends to Seven Mile. He was leaving a
4 bar that was a gay bar, was followed by the police
5 and stopped. One of the officers in the car got
6 out of the car came over to him approached him,
7 took his license back to the car to check. When he
8 came back without his badge on his uniform and
9 asked our Director to get out of the car. He did,
10 he had him arms on the hood the whole thing, and
11 although he didn't beat him mercilessly, or kill
12 him or anything of that nature, tore his clothing,
13 punched him and made it very clear that it was not
14 something that he wanted to be held responsible
15 for. He didn't know who he was doing it to.

16 Frank turned to Maryann Mahaffey's
17 office. She has been a friend to us for a long
18 time. The Police Department in the City of Detroit
19 is not responsive to lesbian and gay needs, and
20 lesbian and gay violence. In fact they perpetrate
21 it a lot of the time. They let Frank go because
22 they didn't want people like you fags in jail with
23 the other people. And I, I -- I think it is hard
24 to have confidence in a police department or any
25 official organization or official agency when

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violence is appropriated against you, when they are doing it to you themselves.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Let's take about three more minutes.

DR. MESSER: Make I make one more follow-up comment on that. I think it is important to understand the dimension of this. You asked a question about what redress do we have? We have absolutely none and we are the only group coming before this body that has absolutely no standing or no right to exist. And I think we need to get in touch with that. There is no where for us to go.

MR. LOVELESS: One last thing: The Hate Crime Act sponsored by Congressman John Conyers and Senator Paul -- Paul Simmons, which was signed by the President with great ceremony. It is the first time the President, any President ever invited lesbian and gay people in for the signing of a Bill.

In this state, there is not a law enforcement agency in this state, not one. Council President Mahaffey raised the issue at the City Council hearings and asked if -- at Budget Hearings, if they plan to do training. There is a

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1 training manual. There is a form and guidelines of
2 how to enforce this. Asked the Detroit Police how
3 they planned to him implement it, they did not know
4 what she was talking about. So, the issue is a big
5 big issue because people are constantly being
6 victimized.

7 Now, I don't know, this being the U.S.
8 Commission, but here in the State all of you hold
9 influential positions some of you, in various parts
10 of what goes on here in Michigan. Serving in your
11 positions as members of this Commission I hope you
12 will take it one step, when you go back to the
13 places where you come from, that you talk about it
14 that you raise it, that you contact people, that
15 you talk, that you let somebody know that you as
16 responsible upstanding members of this society
17 believe that this is intolerable and you believe
18 that there is no place for it in our society.
19 There are several things we are appealing to you as
20 a Commission to do.

21 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Marc.

22 MR. LOVELESS: Okay.

23 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you very much.

24 DR. MESSER: I guess most of what I
25 wanted to say has already been said. I do

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1 appreciate your having us here. We don't get a
2 chance to be listened to very often. The courts
3 don't listen. The police don't listen. The
4 Legislature doesn't listen. Most of City Councils
5 don't listen, although Detroit obviously is an
6 exception to that. There are only five cities in
7 this country -- in Michigan that have protection
8 for gays and lesbians; and we are trying to make
9 Ferndale the sixth. If you don't happen to be in
10 one of those cities, live in one of the cities then
11 you are just out of it.

12 There was an apartment in Mt. Clemens
13 in Macomb County, and as soon as the landlady found
14 out there were two men moving in and she surmised
15 they might be gay, she refused to allow them to
16 move in. That happens all of the time. Even in
17 Detroit, the anti-discrimination laws are not
18 enforced whether or not it comes to lesbians and
19 gays.

20 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you very much.

21 DR. MESSER: Thank you very much.

22 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: The next presenter
23 will be Hal Helterhoff, Special Agent in Charge,
24 Federal Bureau of Investigation. Welcome, Mr.
25 Helterhoff.

1 MR. HAL HELTERHOFF: Thank you.

2 Chairman Gibson and members of the Commission.

3 Thank you for inviting me here today on a matter
4 which is so very important to the FBI and that is
5 hate crimes and related civil rights actions.

6 AS recently as July 6th of this year,
7 FBI Director, William Sessions, addressed the NAACP
8 at the annual meeting at Houston, Texas and spoke
9 extensively about the FBI various roles and
10 responsibilities in the area of civil rights, and
11 specifically hate crimes. Director Sessions said,
12 hate crimes or crimes motivated by hate are
13 destructive of the bedrock principals and
14 inalienable rights upon which this nation was
15 founded; the rights we hold so dear.

16 This statement underscores the serious
17 commitment we, of the FBI, have in the
18 investigation of violations of the Federal Civil
19 Rights Statutes. In April of this year, or 1990
20 the 101st Congress enacted Public Law 101-27 cited
21 as the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. This Act
22 empowered the Attorney General of the United States
23 to collect statistics for a five year period on a
24 perpetration of certain crimes that manifest
25 evidence of prejudice based on race, religion,

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1 sexual orientation or ethnicity, even criminal
2 motivation. The Attorney General, in turn,
3 developed and delegated to the FBI the
4 responsibility for the development and
5 implementation of a national program of gathering
6 hate crimes statistics. The Uniform Crime Reporting
7 Section at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C.
8 developed just such a system, began training law
9 enforcement officers throughout the United States.
10 And on January 1, 1991 actually began reporting the
11 statistics. An aggressive training program for
12 federal, state and local law enforcement officials
13 is well under way at this time and is projected to
14 have reached seventy-seven percent of law
15 enforcement personnel in this country by the end of
16 August of 1991. Several Michigan law enforcement
17 agencies have been invited to attend the FBI's
18 training at Chicago, Illinois, at the end of August
19 of 1991. The FBI Detroit Office for Michigan will
20 send agents to this important training.

21 It is important to note a few positive
22 points regarding the law enforcement component. As
23 an affirmation of the recognition that hate crimes
24 data is critical to understanding the overall crime
25 problem in a given geographical area, law

1 enforcement community has enthusiastically received
2 this program. Although the training is provided by
3 the FBI, it was developed by the Uniform Crime
4 Reporting Section, with extensive input from state
5 and municipal law enforcement officers, officials
6 and local human interest groups, with national
7 representation, such as the NAACP, and the
8 Department of Justice's Civil Rights Unit and
9 community relations representatives. The purpose of
10 the training is twofold, one, to assist law
11 enforcement agencies in implementing a system to
12 recognize, capture, report and record hate
13 motivated crimes; and two, to sensitize street
14 officers to hate crime problems in their respective
15 communities. Endorsement for this training in the
16 form of resolutions of support both the concepts
17 and techniques suggested have come from the
18 International Association of Chiefs of Police, the
19 National Sheriffs Association and the International
20 Association of Directors of Law Enforcement
21 Standards and Training, to name a few. The
22 Statistics Act does not require the states or
23 municipalities to participate or to identify,
24 capture or report their hate crime statistics at
25 all. There are no penalties for non-participation,

1 yet the law enforcement community has voluntarily
2 taken up this challenge, recognizing the obvious
3 importance of collecting this data. In preparation
4 for my remarks here today, I contacted our Uniform
5 Crime Reporting people in Washington. Thus far the
6 Uniform Crime Reporting Section has received
7 partial data from eleven states. The data received
8 is partial and sketchy, at best, at this point.
9 Therefore, our Uniform Crime Reporting Section is
10 not prepared to release premature statistics right
11 now. Since it is everyone's hope that the results
12 of this data compilation will paint an accurate
13 potrait of hate crimes in the United States, we do
14 not want to risk invalidating this fledgling system
15 by premature projections based on a partial view of
16 the picture.

17 Alternatively, I can discuss with you
18 some statistics regarding a number of civil rights
19 investigations we have conducted initially.
20 Although, I must remind you that I cannot discuss
21 any pending matters here today. Furthermore, the
22 FBI conducts preliminary investigations in alleged
23 violations of the civil rights statutes within our
24 jurisdiction, which includes police brutality
25 cases, which is the highest majority of our

1 caseload. Any of these alleged brutality matters,
2 although very serious would not be considered hate
3 crimes, because there is no manifest evidence that
4 race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnic
5 involvement has motivated the officer's alleged
6 acts. In fiscal year 1989 the Detroit FBI Office
7 which includes the State of Michigan conducted 117
8 civil rights preliminary investigations. In fiscal
9 year 1990, we conducted 82 preliminary
10 investigations. So far in fiscal year 1991, there
11 have been 121 civil rights cases initiated.

12 Special circumstances impacting on these figures
13 include the following: Number one, in January of
14 1991, the war in the Middle East commenced. The
15 FBI Office for the State of Michigan made it clear
16 that it would investigate any violations of civil
17 rights statutes including any acts or threats of
18 acts of retaliation against the American-Arab
19 community. Our civil rights caseload significantly
20 increased.

21 Two, in March of 1991, the videotaping
22 of an alleged beating of an individual in Los
23 Angeles caused many to report other allegations of
24 civil rights violations, not previously reported to
25 the FBI.

1 I personally have instituted an annual
2 Civil Rights Open House beginning in December of
3 1989, and inviting community leaders and law
4 enforcement officials to the Detroit FBI office.
5 The purpose of this assembly is to facilitate a
6 multidirectional dialogue between all in
7 attendance. Feedback has been positive. The
8 success of this program has resulted, we hope, in
9 an increased confidence in the FBI's commitment to
10 our responsibilities in the civil rights arena.
11 The second open house was held in December of 1990.
12 I recall during the open house session, a lot of
13 anticipation regarding the Hate Crimes Statistics
14 Act. The question was how do you identify hate
15 crimes? The Uniform Crime Reporting, in their
16 training book defines hate crimes as bias crimes.
17 They define bias as performing a negative opinion
18 or attitude toward a group or persons based on
19 their race, religion, ethnic background, national
20 origin or sexual orientation. Bias crime or hate
21 crime is more specifically defined as a criminal
22 offense committed against a person or property which
23 is motivated in all or in part by the offender's
24 bias against a race, religion, ethnic, national
25 origin, or sexual orientation group.

1 FBI Director Sessions defined hate
2 crimes as unlawful acts designed to harm or
3 frighten a person because of his or her religion or
4 ethnic background. These crimes can range from
5 verbal intimidation all the way up to murder. Hate
6 crimes can take the form of a threatening telephone
7 call to a single Hispanic family living in a
8 non-Hispanic neighborhood or a bomb placed in a
9 business owned by Asian-Americans or a flaming
10 cross burning on the lawn of a Black family's home.
11 The Hate Crime Statistics Act is a vehicle for
12 compiling data. It does not broaden the
13 jurisdiction of the FBI. Most hate crimes will
14 continue to be investigated and prosecuted by State
15 and local law enforcement agencies. The FBI will
16 continue to investigate violations of those rights
17 and activities protected by the Federal Civil
18 Rights statutes. When dual jurisdictions arise, we
19 will work with our fellow law enforcement officers
20 to the extent practicable and permissible.

21 During fiscal year 1990 the federal
22 government nationally prosecuted and convicted
23 forty-six individuals for crimes of racial
24 violence. Many, many more were prosecuted by state
25 and local authorities in this country. In your

1 invitation for me to testify requested that I
2 discuss the groups involved in perpetuating hate
3 crimes in Michigan. The FBI has, on a national
4 level, investigated members of a variety of hate
5 groups under our domestic counterterrorism program.
6 We gather information through lawful techniques
7 governed by the Attorney General's guidelines on
8 domestic terrorists. Nationally again, we are
9 currently conducting an investigation of members of
10 white supremacist organizations that are engaging
11 in specific acts of violence against minorities.
12 Members of one group may also be members of other
13 bias groups. In Michigan, I can assure you that
14 whenever one or more of the members of these groups
15 have been identified as conspiring or committing
16 violent acts in some segment of the population
17 based on race, religion, ethnic background, we have
18 and will continue to investigate those groups in
19 accordance with the Attorney General's guidelines
20 in accordance with domestic terrorists. These
21 investigations are highly sensitive, time consuming
22 and uses a lot of resources. As previously pointed
23 out, individuals acting alone or conspiring with
24 others in acts of violence against special segments
25 of our population, whether or not, they are members

1 of a hate group are investigated by the FBI Civil
2 Rights Squad.

3 I would like to thank you for the
4 opportunity to address you. The FBI remains
5 committed to civil rights investigations. The Act
6 that we have been talking about calls for the
7 Attorney General to publish an annual summary of
8 the data acquired. We all look forward to that
9 publication so we can focus our resources in a most
10 effective manner possible to combat hate crimes in
11 Michigan.

12 DR. FRAZIER: Question. I would like
13 to know through the Justice Department who has the
14 responsibility in States to communicate to the
15 local law enforcement agency. For example, it has
16 been reported to us here today that one
17 municipality has evidence that shows evidence that
18 their local police department has been trained,
19 they know how to identify hate crimes, they know
20 how to report hate crimes, while another one
21 because of leadership in that municipality chooses
22 to ignore it. My question specifically is: How do
23 you change the behavior of that person who chooses
24 to ignore it? Isn't there some national lever that
25 holds that municipality responsible? Where does

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the buck stop?

MR. HELTERHOFF: Basically it is an issue of voluntarily reporting of these crimes. This is no different than other crimes that are reported under the Uniform Crime Reporting System, nationally. However, the system through time has become effective, and many departments based on the fact that these statistics are very useful have voluntarily submitted their statistics. This is going to be a learning process. It is a new Act. I don't think there is one national lever, so to speak, that is going to require everyone to do it. Hopefully, it will catch on with the law enforcement community. Certainly, I personally am talking with law enforcement in Michigan, whether the Michigan Chiefs Association or the Sheriffs convention, I will certainly emphasize in my realm, and hopefully many more will join.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Larrain.

MS. THOMAS: A few moments ago we had a report from a group of people, gay-lesbians, and I think most people here were shocked; I was. What do you do in protecting them?

MR. HELTERHOFF: Well, there are various civil rights statutes on the federal

1 level. I did listen to, I believe, the same
2 session you are talking about.

3 First of all, in any civil rights
4 violation there are like any other statutes, there
5 are supposed to be local responses, county
6 responses, state responses and then federal
7 responses, if necessary. But we have under the
8 Federal Civil Rights Statutes, certain of the
9 statutes include sexual orientation and certain
10 don't. And, I think more might be added or amended
11 to include that on the federal level. But already
12 we do have certain statutes under the Federal Civil
13 Rights Act. If somebody is denied something based
14 on their sexual orientation, it could be a federal
15 violation.

16 MS. THOMAS: In other words, what I am
17 hearing is that you don't have anything, because
18 you say we could be.

19 MR. HELTERHOFF: Well, no, because the
20 statutes are such that civil rights are like
21 anything else in this country. We do not have a
22 federal police force in the country. If something
23 is looked at as being unfair, we immediately have
24 the FBI or immediately have the federal government
25 there. We have to look at a specific statute.

1 Let's take in the area of discrimination in
2 housing, for example. There certainly have to be
3 so many renters. The complex has to be large
4 enough for the civil rights statutes to kick in.
5 There are some. We would look at an individual
6 case basis as to what we could look at at the
7 federal level.

8 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Roland.

9 MR. HWANG: Have the guidelines been
10 promulgated yet; or are they expected out soon?

11 MR. HELTERHOFF: For the --

12 MR. HWANG: For the Act 101.

13 MR. HELTERHOFF: They are in the
14 process right now. We are having the training
15 sessions like the one I'm mentioned in Chicago.
16 Coincidentally today I saw a communication where
17 there are several more, so they are promulgating
18 the guidelines to take care of this vast broad
19 area.

20 MR. HWANG: Do you know when the annual
21 report is due out?

22 MR. HELTERHOFF: Well, the statute
23 calls for it this year, so hopefully, by the end of
24 the year it will come out. Of course, it might be
25 a partial report, too, but at least it is a start

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and then we can fine tune it and work with it.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Where can they get a booklet on the reporting of the hate crime, if you --

MR. HELTERHOFF: If you will give our FBI office a call and ask for our Press Officer, I will give a name right here, Hank Blastie, B-l-a-s-t-i-e. I will fill Hank in on this, he is a Special Agent with the FBI to see that the document will be given to the gentlemen.

MS. GATTORN: Just to follow-up on the discussion so far, some of the groups that have testified before us today in particular the gay lesbian group have experienced considerable intimidation and have had problems by going to the local law enforcement agencies. They are ignored or mistreated there and they follow-up to their actions has been absent.

What would you recommend that groups that do not get the satisfaction from a local authority do?

MR. HELTERHOFF: I think that would be a good point to come to the FBI and let us know and that is part of our role in going back to your question to find out if we do have a statute to

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1 cover it. That is part of the role of the federal
2 government in civil rights area, and not only with
3 this particular group that spoke just before me.
4 If you have an allegation of a civil rights
5 violation, and if the local component or the local
6 authorities will not act either because they don't
7 have the resources, either because they can't get
8 it prosecuted or because they don't want to get
9 involved, that very well might be a way the FBI
10 through the federal statutes, for them to come in.
11 And that is the purpose of the Federal Civil Rights
12 Statutes. Hopefully, any crime would be prosecuted
13 locally and with the county and state, but if not,
14 that could be a role for the FBI.

15 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Jack?

16 MR. MARTIN: With respect to the
17 implementation of the Hate Crime Statistics Act, do
18 you know if any funds have been provided through
19 the new Crime Bill to assist municipalities and
20 states in impelmenting it?

21 MR. HELTERHOFF: I do not have that
22 answer. I can research that and get back to the
23 Chairman on that question.

24 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Mr. Helterhoff, thank
25 you very much.

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The next presenter is Robert Arcand.
Mr. Arcand is the Executive Director of the Greater
Detroit Interfaith Round Table of the NCCJ.
Welcome.

MR. ROBERT ARCAND: I don't have a real
formal report. I do have some things though that I
would like to say that I think are pretty
important. I did hear the testimony of a couple of
folks before me and as one of the Commissioners
pointed out, I think, also it is appalling that
that kind of stuff is allowed to take place in this
country, certainly in the state and the city. My
organization along with other organizations do not
adopt that type of behavior in terms of police
harassment and that sort of thing.

When I was first asked to prepare
remarks on the rise of hate groups in the
metropolitan Detroit area. I originally thought of
a couple of groups, notably the White Arvan
Resistance, that one probably being the main group
that I am aware of that was active in this area.
They have ben doing some recruiting in Warren and
other suburban areas and some of their stuff has
filtered into the Detroit area. I thought further,
however, that not necessarily an individual hate

1 group that is the problem. I think the problem is
2 in our society, and the things that we allow to go
3 on. One of the things I brought with me are some
4 papers. The Detroit Free Press did a study back in
5 April, and the headline of that day's paper was
6 Detroit's Racial Split Grows. I think that, more
7 than anything accounts for the rise in hate groups
8 in our area. That the growth of our suburbs has
9 been a natural growth with some unnatural things
10 occurring, notably the inability of minority
11 communities to have the access to housing in the
12 Metropolitan Detroit area. And because of that
13 growth of the suburbs, which have become
14 increasingly White, the city has become
15 increasingly Black. It doesn't take a genius to
16 figure that out. Just drive through the city and
17 drive through the suburbs and go to any grocery in
18 the city and the suburbs and you will see that.
19 Our office, for example, is right about in the
20 center of the City of Detroit, around Boston
21 Boulevard. At one time, that was the suburban area
22 of Detroit. Now, we are center city and we are
23 probably ninety percent Black in our area, whereas
24 if I drive six or seven miles north, it is probably
25 the reverse. And, that is a major problem. As a

1 personal perspective, I can recall when I moved
2 from college, I went to Michigan State and I moved
3 to Bloom Street in Detroit. I had an older Polish
4 lady as a neighbor. She was appalled because a
5 Black family had moved onto the street. It was a
6 very small street, about eight houses. And she
7 said, it is terrible, look what happened down the
8 street. They moved in over there, and now they are
9 moving in over here. How can they do that? I
10 said, what are you talking about? She said, well,
11 our deed says that you cannot sell to persons of
12 color. She had no knowledge that restricted
13 covenants were illegal. I think that despite the
14 fact that this nation has outlawed restricted
15 covenants, that the subtle restrictive covenants
16 are going on as we speak, as real estate agents are
17 showing people housing, as bankers and other people
18 are talking to people about where they are going to
19 to move, the value of housing, what is the best buy
20 for your dollar and where you will fill the most
21 comfortable, the later part being the most
22 important determinant. I think that how people
23 obtain housing is crucial because we can sit up
24 here and talk all we want, but when we go home if
25 we go home to our segregated neighborhoods, we have

1 created a distance as a factor, an unknown factor.

2 I talked with Frank Judge just before I
3 came in here. Frank was the lead person on the
4 Detroit Strategic Plan which analyzed a lot of the
5 problems of Metropolitan Detroit. And Frank told
6 me that I should emphasize the fact, two key words
7 he referred to as "distance" and "unknown" and he
8 referred to -- he referred to during the second
9 war, the second World War when Japanese were
10 interned and that was allowed to happen in this
11 country and society allowed it to happen, because
12 it was very easy, because most people did not know
13 Japanese people. It was an unknown factor there.
14 Whereas it did not occur with the Germans during
15 the second war because they were more assimilated
16 into the population. And his point was those two
17 key words: "Distance" and "unknown" and I think
18 that is terribly important.

19 Also some of the recent incidents that
20 we have had in this town and I am sure that others
21 have brought up today, the incident at the
22 fireworks. They had the incident in Mt. Clements,
23 in Dearborn Heights, we had the incident with the
24 Black police officer who has harassed. I think
25 this is only the surfacing of the hatred and

bigotry that is growing because of that distance between our communities. The attention to it by the media is also very important. I see a lot of T.V. cameras here today. Hopefully, they will report on both things that are positive and the things that are negative. There is a lot of inattention in this town to projects that are positive. There are a lot of agencies in this town, some of them I know are sitting in this room have done a lot of very, very good and positive things. They don't get the kind of press they ought to get. Whereas, you know somebody gets beat up, it is a Black on White, or White on Black situation, it is on the front page. I have to give a caveat, too, today's Detroit Free Press had on the front page, a picture of three Black young people who had helped a woman who had her purse stolen. They grabbed the purse snatcher. I have to give that caveat; while I criticize them at the same time.

I think that the most important thing that can be done out of today's hearing is for some strategies to be looked at. I think we have to look at aggressive support for housing equal opportunity. I think this Commission should be

1 pushing all appropriate governmental entities to
2 support equal opportunity in housing. It is no
3 accident that Warren is over ninety percent White,
4 and Detroit is over eighty percent Black, or
5 seventy percent or whatever the numbers are. I
6 think most people in this room realize that that
7 didn't happen all by itself. The Civil Rights
8 Commission should be pushing agencies to enforce
9 equal opportunity in housing, because indirectly,
10 in my opinion, that has a direct bearing on hate
11 groups rising up in our towns. Our youngsters, if
12 they are not familiar with people, it is a lot
13 easier to call a person a name when that person is
14 not living next door to you. It is a heck of a lot
15 easier. Another important thing I want to say here
16 today is something that I mentioned earlier also
17 and that is promotion of positive programs.

18 We have a program in our office where
19 we have banded together over one hundred agencies
20 in this town that are either doing currently race
21 relations programming or want to do race relations
22 programming for young people. We have not gotten
23 any press on this thing. We publish a calendar
24 every three months and we list activities done by
25 all of these agencies, and we promote the activity.

1 It doesn't have to be our agency activity. It could
2 be an agency like the NAACP or somebody else's
3 project. We want to promote that activity. I
4 think those are the two things I would really like
5 to see this Commission address.

6 And the final thing I would like to do
7 is, based on my last comment, and that is to read
8 you a letter that we are sending to the Editors of
9 the Detroit papers today. And it starts out the
10 papers highlighted and deservingly so many recent
11 stories about racial problems in metropolitan
12 Detroit. Some of the underlying causes have even
13 been reported on, racial isolation, unemployment,
14 et cetera. Now is the time for the media to talk
15 about some of the efforts underway to address these
16 problems, so that people who want to get involved
17 in the solution, can do so.

18 We at the Interfaith Roundtable have
19 built a hundred member coalition of agencies that
20 are involved in race relations or want to start
21 projects in Detroit. Quarterly calendars are
22 produced and mailed to every elementary and high
23 school in the tri-county area. The same is mailed
24 to every synagog and mosque and five hundred
25 agencies in this area. We are developing parenting

1 seminars with a local hospital, posting a week long
2 camp on human relations called Any town U.S.A. --
3 Any town Michigan, bringing Arabs and
4 Jewish-Americans together and hosting a seminar on
5 equal employment opportunities as well as any other
6 human relations efforts.

7 Sure, I am blowing our horn, but my
8 point is that we and many others in this community
9 are also trying to do the right thing. The media
10 owes it to their various constituencies to report
11 on these programs just as they report on murders,
12 government inefficiency and other community
13 concerns. Good news is news. And while all of our
14 efforts are not as successful as we want or we
15 really need them to be, human beings involved in
16 building a better Metropolitan Detroit deserve more
17 ink. Their investment in Metropolitan Detroit is
18 every bit as important as a new stadium, murders
19 and other news.

20 And that is going out under my name to
21 the Detroit media. That is the statement that I -
22 wanted to give to this Commission. I do have some
23 of the papers, and the actual study and I can give
24 that to you, or you may have seen it in the Detroit
25 papers.

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CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Questions?

Roland?

MR. HWANG: Bob, have you had the opportunity for look at some of the ingredients in other communities that foster better race relations and that reduce hate crimes such as consolidating boards of realtors so that there isn't a North Oakland, South Oakland, Wayne, that example or better funding for fair housing?

Are there some things that are being done better in some communities and we are just not doing and therefore, we have fallen short?

MR. ARCAND: That is a good question. I have seen some other communities, Tampa, Florida for example, has a very progressive program that is going on right now involving the real estate people, bankers and community leaders. That's one that I can point to that I can give you and get more information to you. I am not really well versed in what other cities are doing other than that which I know about.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Anyone else have any questions? Okay.

Thank you very much.

We will pause for a minute or two to

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get the new tape in the recorder.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: The next presenter is Jonathan Macks. Mr. Macks is the Senior Attorney with Michigan Bell and Phil Jones is the Media Relations Director of Michigan Bell. Welcome.

MR. JONATHAN MACKS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving us the time today. My name is Jonathan Macks, and I am the Senior Attorney with Michigan Bell. And my area of responsibility does involve my company on various matters relating to security and the use of --

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Pardon me -- could you keep the door closed. Maybe you can speak a little louder.

MR. MACKS: I am responsible for advising the company on matters related to security and the use of telephone service and wiretaps and matters as such that involve hate messages and what our response can be legally in those instances. I am here, of course, to answer the questions from the legal standpoint, but primarily Phil Jones will give a presentation on what kind --

MR. PHIL JONES: Let me start by saying from my vantage point, from Michigan Bell, the use

1 of the telephone in Michigan for messages is
2 limited. Let me tell you that over the past
3 eighteen months, for example, we have had only two
4 reported of any kind of recorded hate messages. I
5 thought you might be interested in what those two
6 incidents were and how they were resolved. I
7 thought they were interestingly resolved, they kind
8 of went away after some public attention was
9 focused on them.

4
10 I would also tell you what, essentially
11 our policy is, and what our guidelines are with
12 respect to recorded hate messages, how we get
13 involved and how we resolve them. First of all,
14 back in January of 1990 that I am aware of, where
15 we really had a distinct problem, it involved a
16 recorded message by the White Aryan Resistance
17 organization; and you heard about that prior to our
18 testimony. Here, appeared mysteriously in what is
19 called an Electronic Mailbox out in the Southfield
20 area. Electronic Mailboxes are provided by private
21 companies for various businesses. You can call,
22 for example, an electronic mailbox number and get a
23 recorded advertisement for a construction company.
24 In this case, you dialed a number and you got a
25 recorded number by the White Aryan Resistance which

1 was racial and ethnic in nature. In this
2 particular case, we brought it to the attention of
3 the U.S. Attorney's Office and we also brought it
4 to the attention of the company who provided the
5 electronic mailbox. Interestingly, within about
6 forty-eight hours, the message disappeared from the
7 mailbox. And it was obvious that it was the actual
8 company that was providing the electronic mailbox
9 that caused the message to disappear.

10 The second message was reported just in
11 April of this year. It involved a similar kind of
12 electronic mailbox. The origin of the message is
13 still a mystery. It was not identified by any
14 group as to its orientation. It popped up in an
15 electronic mailbox out in Mt. Clemens. In this
16 case it was put there by a computer hacker, who had
17 apparently gained the codes necessary to get into
18 the mailbox and had planted the message within the
19 box. Again, we brought it to the attention of the
20 company providing the electronic mailboxes, and the
21 message within about twenty-four hours was taken
22 out of the mailbox. I think it is interesting --
23 the reason is, there is a conclusion that there is
24 a great sensitivity on the part of the companies
25 providing this kind of electronic mailbox. It is

1 very apparent that any time there is any
2 possibility of any publicity on anything associated
3 with these kinds of messages, they move very, very
4 quickly themselves, without law enforcement
5 intervention and without the telephone company
6 intervention to remove these kinds of messages,
7 themselves. So, let me tell you, and I am not an
8 attorney, I am familiar, as to what our posture is
9 with regard to these kinds of hate messages and
10 what we think we can do and what we can't do. Our
11 posture really isn't what we like, and I am sure
12 everyone else in this room for the use of telephone
13 facilities, for these kinds of hate messages.
14 Unfortunately, it is not that easy. We are
15 obligated by law to supply service to all of our
16 customers on a nondiscriminatory basis. As long as
17 customers comply with the appropriate tariffs and
18 appropriate laws, we simply can't dispel these
19 types of messages from coming in. I don't know
20 that anybody would want the telephone company to be
21 censoring a telephone conversation, whether
22 recorded messages or not. I don't think that
23 anybody would want us to do that.

24 In the case of the White Aryan
25 Resistance message, as I said we did contact the

1 U.S. Attorney's Office, and I want to say that we
2 do have a -- a security department that handles
3 that, and which has a very, very solid good close
4 working relationships with both state, federal and
5 local law enforcement. We also have very solid
6 relationships with the news media as well. Quite
7 often a little bit of publicity regarding one of
8 these messages causes it to go away as I have
9 documented here. With that I would be happy to
10 answer any question you might have.

11 I am sure John would be happy to answer
12 questions.

13 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Barb.

14 MS. GATTORN: I think recently this
15 week that Federal Court has ruled that these
16 Dial-a- Porn companies are -- are legal. Would
17 that get into the hate messages as well if they are
18 not provided by the commerical --

19 MR. JONES: Certainly if a Court finds
20 that a particular kind of message violates a state
21 or federal law, we do have authority under our
22 tariffs to cut-off telephone service for violation
23 of the law; and there are procedures as to those
24 tariffs and rules of the Michigan Service
25 Commission that allow us to support court cases or

1 MR. GORDON: Dennis, I need to change
2 the tape.

3 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: The next presenter is
4 Randy Dave Pacheco.

5 Randy is from the Lakeshore Hispanic
6 Forum.

7 THE REPORTER: Excuse me, sir, could
8 you please spell your name?

9 MR. RANDY PACHECO: P-a-c-h-e-c-o.
10 I am from Holland, Michigan. And the reason I am
11 here is just to --

12 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Can you speak up so
13 the people in the back can hear you.

14 MR. PACHECO: The reason I am here is
15 to cite incidents which occurred in that area that
16 might be of interest and hopefully before I leave;
17 I will leave some information here with you.

18 I am going to cite some of the
19 incidents I know it is late. We can take it from
20 there. I guess one of things that is foremost in
21 our minds in the West Michigan area is the concern
22 with INS, the Immigration and Naturalization
23 Service. There have been several instances that
24 have occurred in that area. I would like to
25 mention a few. They seem to crop up every now and

1 then, and then they subside, we holler a little bit
2 and then they crop up again. They shouldn't happen
3 in the first place, but they do happen. Some of
4 the things that --

5 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Speak louder please.

6 MR. PACHEO: Thank you. Some of the
7 things that, for example, that have happened, one
8 of our local Italian ministers in the area has been
9 stopped twice already, and been given a pretty hard
10 time. He is a pastor of a church. He took it on
11 the cheek, you know, but it shouldn't be happening.
12 Another thing that happened in front of the
13 Catholic church in our hometown. A person, an
14 Hispanic person was stopped and spread eagle right
15 there and it is kind of an overreaction, but that's
16 the way it is sometimes. Another incident, I
17 guess, that seems important is one of the migrant
18 camps, INS agent pulled a gun on an immigrant in
19 the camp and the, suggested the message that it was
20 pulled, a lot of times they just do send the wrong
21 message. Other things that have happened in the
22 area, people have been followed, from home or
23 sometimes the INS ban on cars there, across the
24 street, parked there kind of observing. It appears
25 that a lot of harassment is going on, not directly,

1 but the intimidation factor is there. And, you
2 know we have presented INS about it, and we have
3 also gone to City Hall who had a contract with INS
4 for rental property. But in the case of INS, what
5 happened was that they said they didn't know the
6 names, I guess in order to -- I am not sure that
7 the names are necessary. We went before the
8 Council, the Holland City Council, said pretty much
9 the same thing, they need names. They don't need
10 names. I don't know the names yet, but I know that
11 a lot of the people have been harassed are
12 reluctant to come out and report the incidents to
13 just anybody, because what happens in some cases
14 that leads to more problems with individuals. They
15 can make, the INS can make things difficult for
16 that individual by going to a lot of the paperwork
17 sometimes on the people. Those are some of the
18 things that are happening in the area. They don't
19 happen everyday. They do happen, they shouldn't be
20 happening.

21 The other thing I think that is worth
22 mentioning is the fact that the local agency, for
23 example, the Holland Police Department and the
24 Secretary of State's office sometimes have taken on
25 the role of INS, have taken on INS

1 responsibilities. And what I mean by that is that
2 there have been people that have been followed home
3 from work after their shift and this has happened
4 more than once. And it was happening for a while,
5 I guess it stopped for a while, like I said, it
6 comes and goes. Now in the Secretary of State
7 Office, there are inappropriate questions that are
8 asked sometimes that are not relevant to whatever is
9 at hand there. Again, it becomes another
10 informational factor and it looks like sometimes it
11 becomes self appointed, INS people I guess. I
12 think some of the things are worth mentioning. I
13 don't have all of the answers. I don't have very
14 many answers at all. These things are happening.
15 I wish they would stop. There are more things that
16 we can say. There are some that have not come
17 forward for fear of retribution. There are a lot
18 of people involved in --

19 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay. Have any
20 questions?

21 Okay. Thank you very much.

22 MS. GATTORN: I do have one question.
23 The people that you are representing are by and
24 large the migrant worker population in the West end
25 of the State; is that correct?

1 MS. GATTORN: So it is a permanent
2 population in Western Michigan?

3 MR. PACHEO: Well, a lot of it is
4 migrant and a lot of the people who live there.
5 For example, the pastor was born and raised in
6 Holland. So it is not really the migrant, but
7 rather the permanent population. Western Michigan
8 I think, has grown by fifteen percent, so it is
9 not a small number. The numbers are growing and
10 growing fast.

11 MS. WEBKAMIGAD: That is a very large
12 migrant population.

13 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: There are some people
14 in the audience that have requested to speak. We
15 are now in to the open session.

16 (Whereupon a discussion was held
17 off of the record).

18 Why don't we take say, a five minute
19 break?

20 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: One is Dr. Telefort of
21 the Rochester School Corporation.

22 DR. TELEFORT: Okay. I don't have a
23 prepared address, but I am the Assistant
24 Superintendent of the Schools in Rochester,
25 Michigan which is a suburb about twenty miles north

1 of Detroit.

2 I am retiring from my position, but
3 within the years I have been there we have
4 instituted many of the things that you heard folks
5 making reports suggest ought to happen. I hired
6 Black administrators, principals, directors. I put
7 in a multicultural program which emphasized the
8 history of Africa, and the history of Asia and
9 Western countries. I did many other things that
10 were consistent with some of the recommendations
11 that you heard this afternoon. The result of some
12 of that, those of you who are local, but the result
13 of some of that which was pretty well documented on
14 the local television, and local papers, Free Press
15 and a few other things that happened were bullets
16 fired in my house, excrement placed in my mailbox.
17 A couple of hundred residents coming forward trying
18 to get me fired. Ultimately some organizations
19 within the community, Black organizations, Jewish
20 organizations and liberal Christian organizations
21 banded together to save my job. This happened a
22 year and a half, two years ago.

23 What the one gentleman said about
24 education being very important certainly has been
25 borne out by what happened in Rochester, Michigan.

1 We need to see many of these things occur in some
2 of our other northern suburbs. There was another
3 gentleman who made a remark about the housing. He
4 was absolutely right there, too. He said it
5 doesn't take a genius to figure out that we have
6 very virulent segregation, particularly the
7 tri-county area is probably the most segregated
8 area. And, I am a Board Member of the Open Housing
9 Committee, Center for Open Housing. And the
10 Anti-Defamation League Director and I are trying to
11 put together a civil rights organization, which
12 will probably become an agency called MOSAIC, the
13 Michigan Organization for Social Advocacy and
14 Intercultural Cooperation. So everthing that can
15 be done by the Civil Rights Commission with regard
16 to what you Ladies and Gentlemen are doing is
17 something that needs to happen. This country is
18 going to survive as a constitutional democracy it
19 presently is. That's all I have to say. Thank
20 you.

21 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any questions?

22 MR. GORDON: I do have a question. You
23 are in a unique position to give us a brief view of
24 what you see as an increase in hate crime in
25 primary and secondary schools. I want to commend

1 you for the many programs that I understand you
2 did.

3 DR. TELEFORT: I am doing some other
4 things. Well, actually my presence is still very
5 active in that community and I am not stopping my
6 activities. Also I hand picked my successor so --
7 very good place.

8 The Board of Education also has changed
9 in its nature, we have some people on the Board,
10 who are more sympathetic to what I have been doing.
11 At the time I was doing this, the Board distanced
12 itself. If I had gotten some publicity around
13 Rochester, I probably would be gone, without my
14 retirement, without the pension, just gone.

15 I am sorry I didn't hear the rest of
16 your question.

17 MR. GORDON: My question related to, I
18 would like for you to speak to the rise of hate
19 crimes within the school system.

20 DR. TELEFORT: There haven't been any
21 in Rochester, in terms of an increase. But these
22 things are happening in the tri-county area and
23 have been well documented by the newspapers. The
24 instances of racist ads, ethnocentric ads certainly
25 are rising. You don't need me as an expert to tell

1 you that. All you have to do is pick up the paper.
2 I think we, and you have got to do exactly what you
3 are doing and what we are doing, isolate our
4 activities. You are going around, you are asking
5 the questions, you are conducting the hearing. I,
6 as an educator, apart from my activities on the
7 various boards, have got to do the very same thing,
8 in terms of instituting the MOSAIC group, and we
9 have to, we have to tell our colleagues to do the
10 same thing. We are in an atmosphere right now of
11 intimidation. And educators are afraid to do the
12 things that I have been doing. They will get a
13 little more afraid. But on the other hand, my
14 District has been successful, but maybe they
15 wanted -- as far as the question you have asked, I
16 can't answer it as well as any publication that you
17 pick up on the street. They are well documented
18 and it is frightening. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Dr. Telfort, thank
20 you very much.

21 Chery Weiss.

22 MS. CHERY WEISS: Hello. I would like
23 to thank you for the opportunity of speaking. I am
24 a White person, but I feel that I have been Black
25 inside all of my life. I have been very sensitive

1 to what is happening to Black people since I was a
2 child. All around me I can see so much racism, and
3 it is horrible. I am just lucky and thankful that
4 I happen to have a lot of good role models in my
5 own family as well as outside of my family that
6 taught me right from wrong. And when I watched
7 movies, I was not like a lot of other people who
8 were -- I saw the goodness in Black people, even
9 though they were showed in a very bad light. I saw
10 the goodness in them, so I grew to love all people,
11 and especially Black people even more than a lot of
12 White people. Because, I have hated a lot of the
13 ways that White people have treated minorities in
14 this country. I wanted to say a few things that I
15 was very concerned about. There is a book I read
16 that is called The Taking of America 1,2,3 by
17 Richard Scragg (ps). And in the book he said that
18 every media organization is headed by a C.I.A.
19 representative, in this country. I feel that is why
20 the media has its focus on things as they do, so
21 that we get locked into thinking that we have to be
22 afraid of Kadeffi coming here and we have to be
23 afraid of all of the other foreign dictators. We
24 have to be afraid of Blacks doing things to White
25 people or whatever and then they end up making us

1 afraid to come downtown, making us afraid to come
2 together as a people, as we should.

3 The other thing that I thought was
4 important to bring up here is that Ronald Reagan as
5 President and George Bush as Vice-President
6 received Nazis from the Austrian Third Reich at a
7 White House reception during Reagan's term of
8 office. This is a fact, and I learned it from a
9 journalist who is a responsible person in Detroit.
10 The World Anti-Communist League is made up of
11 Nazis, KKK and Moonies, Soldiers of Fortune, C.I.A.
12 people and others. They met regularly at the White
13 House and Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush were members of
14 that organization. What they had in common was that
15 they all hated communists. That is another thing
16 that is bad with people who hate communists,
17 actually communists were people that made things
18 correct in this country many, many years ago.

19 Also, we fought a racist war in Iraq.
20 Ramsey Clark was the ex-Attorney General years past
21 and he toured and filmed Iraq after the war. He
22 said that he walked for miles and miles in
23 residential districts. He saw no military
24 vehicles. Our military bombed the residential
25 areas first to remove the economic base of the

1 cities and then bombed the military areas
2 afterwards. A TV producer of the 5th Estate TV
3 show in Canada has a training film showing George
4 Bush was planning the war as long ago as a year ago
5 last February. It is also alleged that seven
6 governments collaborated to produce and/or spread
7 AIDS. That was developed in a Fort Deedrick (ps)
8 Maryland laboratory. There is a British Medical
9 Journal article on this topic from a few years ago.
10 It was entitled The Killing of Africa.

11 I feel it would be a real good idea to
12 implement changes in school that as Dr. Telfort had
13 done so that students will learn history of all
14 people. I think maybe that would be one crucial
15 step that could be taken so that many children
16 across this country would grow up with a better
17 understanding of what minorities have gone through
18 so that they won't hate them. Because, as you know
19 if you don't know people then you become afraid of
20 them. And, Dr. Telfort had told me that his life
21 was threatened several times for speaking out
22 against racism. And people, when I tell them this,
23 I have to explain. He is White, the people who
24 threatened his life are White. They are surprised
25 to hear that so many White people would do such a

1 thing. I, myself, am not really surprised
2 unfortunately. I feel that racism is alive and
3 well in America and it makes me very sad. I am
4 hoping that the fact that you are here and have
5 heard us speak all day, that something should be
6 done to stop this horrible thing.

7 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you so much.
8 Any questions?

9 MS. WEISS: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay. Harvey Green.
11 Welcome.

12 MR. HARVEY GREEN: Thank you. I am
13 retired from Ford Motor Company. I am 73 years
14 old. I worked twenty-seven years, never missed a
15 day. I have been four times on my life,
16 threatened. In my neighborhood, I live 14891
17 Steel. My wife, she is partly invalid, come out of
18 Savannah, Georgia. At 14918 there was conspiracy.
19 They had four mens waiting on me, they robbed me of
20 five hundred dollars, taken my jewelry and
21 attempted to murder me. God saved my life. They
22 beat me. I went to work the next morning. The
23 reason I know there is a conspiracy because the
24 gentleman that was supposed to get my job, why you
25 don't have my job. He said, Jimmy Smith pissed

1 them off. I got proof, they give me all kinds of
2 medication in my hip. I got a little frightened
3 so, Lee Simmons, he is gone now, got and my blood
4 stopped circulating. I was dead for forty-seven
5 minutes. I stayed in the hospital for about a
6 week. It didn't affect my heart, but whatever
7 medication they give me, but I have all my proof.
8 I am speaking to you gentlemen, I been to the
9 F.B.I. and they wouldn't listen to me, been to the
10 police, they wouldn't listen to me. I am speaking
11 for my fellow workers at Ford, that men, that they
12 have committed and eliminated at Ford, men, there
13 are so many of my friends that I worked with
14 personally at Dearborn. I worked down there for
15 ten years, seven years they made with evil spirits.
16 I got all proof anything you need. We in my
17 neighborhood, I am going to ask you Ladies, Ladies
18 and Gentlemen to please --There is one particular
19 place in my block I wish you would investigate. It
20 is 14918, the people sometime live there. There
21 are four people, people waiting, waiting understand
22 in my neighborhood. Four blocks. Four houses from
23 where I live at. All through the neighborhood they
24 got black children in front of that block. My
25 wife, she is partly disabled. I am speaking this

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because I am a victim of a person on a job working everyday and somebody come in your home and molest your wife and your children, understand, she is 73 years old and she can't help herself, because she is a different color. We have come and harassed and raped, and the FBI and police did not give us no help whatsoever. So please ask you people for help with my people, my employees and my fellow workers at Fords' and also my family. My sons is in the hospital because he is different and they give him all kind of medication to say he is mental. Veteran of the army and he is in the hospital now for a week. We really need help from you people, FBI, police do not help, understand, any of us because what they are afraid to come and speak out. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you. Any questions of Mr. Green?

Stephen Pablo --

MR. STEPHEN PABLO DAVIS: Pablo Davis.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: What is that?

MR. DAVIS: Pablo.

CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Pablo;okay.

MR. DAVIS: The only hearings on this subject I have ever been interested in attending

1 were the ones held in Washington by Congressman
2 John Conyers in the early 80's when he was in a
3 position with the Judiciary Subcommittee to try to
4 get the Department of Justice to file the thousands
5 of hate, and discrimination cases that were coming
6 before, just to file them -- let alone prosecute
7 them. It wasn't happening at all. Other than that
8 I never thought that panels of this kind, before
9 then, would be worth attending. There are two
10 reasons why I decided to come here today. The
11 first reason is, a few days ago I became 75 years
12 old and my life is obviously coming close to the
13 end, and I wanted to take the opportunity to tell,
14 to testify about what I am going to do here today.
15 The second reason is I thought that the high level
16 of this panel that was put together would be one
17 which would be willing to listen to what I have to
18 say. What I am talking about hasn't even been
19 raised here today except the communication by the
20 educator who spoke a few minutes ago. I am talking
21 about political hate, political repression and most
22 of that political repression is sponsored by
23 government agencies. My work in civil rights and
24 civil liberties started with the Scottsboro boys
25 case in 1933 and there I met great Americans who

1 were involved in that struggle like Paul Robeson,
2 he and I became life long friends until he died;
3 and later Congressman Vito Mark Antonio, a great
4 lawyer, and W.E.B. Dubois, later and then the great
5 William Patterson, who submitted the antigenocide
6 resolution to the United Nations, people who really
7 did things about this issue confronting us forever
8 in this country. And I go on.

9 But here is what happened to me as a
10 result. I have been put in prison seven times in
11 my life for this work. Years. Once in federal
12 prison for one and a half years sentenced to an
13 indeterminate sentence in Colorado. There is a
14 Supreme Court decision, United States Supreme Court
15 decision that pried me loose. What was my crime,
16 did I ever in my life commit a crime? Never. Only
17 this work that we are meeting about today. A
18 citizen fighting for constitutional human rights,
19 civil rights and against racism. In 1948 when the
20 NAACP first instituted their first class action
21 suit, and when I was on trial for doing what? For
22 helping, trying to help form a third-party in this
23 country.

24 Now, I am submitting to you that that
25 is one of the worst hate crimes existing in the

1 United States. Bipartisanship is often considered a
2 very important element in political life in this
3 country and sometimes it is valuable, when we are
4 facing a national catastrophe of some kind, a
5 crisis, but the flip side of that is this: Neither
6 party, Republican or Democratic are ever going to
7 permit the American people, if they can help it, to
8 have a true third opposition party unless it is
9 done over their dead bodies. Here is the proof.
10 When we tried to organize the Progressive Party in
11 1948 and had a perfectly fine candidate running for
12 President, fourteen hundred and eighty-one of us
13 were either subpoenaed or arrested overnight,
14 August the 18th. Why hasn't this fact -- how did
15 Truman ever get elected President? I know, I was
16 in prison over that whole thing because the
17 Democrats and Republicans got together to smack a
18 third party movement. Do you call that -- I
19 consider that a political hate crime. Why isn't it
20 categorized like that? Why isn't the American
21 people ever permitted to debate this kind of
22 question openly? It is a serious defect in our
23 national condition. You don't have a true
24 opposition, political party that represents the
25 people, and those of us, who from the grass roots

1 are attempting to do something about it, and that
2 is our constitutional right. So what happened?
3 Every administration starting with the Truman
4 administration has taken this tact on this thing.
5 They violate the Constitution. The Constitution
6 and the Bill of Rights is set up to give an
7 individual American citizens protection from the
8 tyranny of the federal government. And --

9 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: One more minute, Mr.
10 Davis.

11 MR. DAVIS: Well, what I have to tell
12 you can't even be told in an hour, I am sure,
13 because I was forced to become a political refugee
14 for six and a half years in this country. Why? I
15 was being harassed by the FBI, to this day the FBI,
16 that business that the FBI presented here today is
17 nothing at all about the protection of people
18 against hate crimes at all. Watch? Look what I
19 have here. There is a law. In 1988 after forty
20 years of struggle, what happened. Proxmire
21 Antigenocide Law came into effect. The
22 Antigenocide Convention that was adopted by almost
23 every civilized country in the world was not
24 adopted by civilized America until '88. I want to
25 ask the FBI and CIA and the Department of -- I was

1 about to say Injustice, I am sorry, will they
2 enforce the antigenocide that spells out exactly
3 what we have been talking about here today. It
4 spells out what hate crimes are all about today.
5 Way back in the 40's in the AntiGenocide
6 Convention. It is all right here. I am going to
7 give this to you.

8 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: All right.

9 MR. DAVIS: All right.

10 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any questions for Mr.
11 Davis?

12 MR. DAVIS: Nobody wants to tackle
13 that.

14 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay. Appreciate
15 that. Thank you very much.

16 Mr. Eddie Headd?

17 MR. EDDIE F. HEADD: First of all, I
18 just want to say that I am a product of the City of
19 Detroit. I was educated in the City of Detroit.
20 Graduated from Cass Technical High School, but
21 during that time I was a youngster, I started
22 drinking at an early age. I think this is one of
23 the key issues that we, as adults, have to come to
24 grips with, that we have a lot of young people out
25 there that become frustrated because they can see

1 the fallacies of the system. They can see the laws
2 are constantly being changed. The way that I look
3 at it as a pre-war buildup and post-war trauma.
4 This country is experiencing the same thing that I
5 experienced as a child during the Vietnam War. You
6 see laws constantly changing. You can see some of
7 your friends are getting killed or falling by the
8 way side and inevitably you have a lot of peer
9 pressure out there. These youngsters who may have
10 been raised from a single parent home like I was
11 have no role models to look up to other than may be
12 my father who lives on the other side of town, who
13 maybe I can't see when I need that crucial question
14 asked. I think that Clemetine Barfield and a lot
15 of mothers who have lost sons, you know, they
16 haven't expressed how they really feel. I look at
17 some of the tragedies that have happened this past
18 year, and I consider them all to be blackeyes to
19 the City of Detroit, as well as it brings out a
20 black rage in me, as I am quite sure that it brings
21 out a rage in all who really care. I think about
22 the state trooper that just died. I was so touched,
23 --that I felt compelled to go to there for the simple
24 fact that on the way to the job, I am a nurse by
25 profession now, I had a tendency and I passed by

1 the trooper on the way to my job. This is a
2 gentleman who was bleeding. I had no choice
3 because I was not driving, I could not stop. But I
4 felt compelled because this man did a job, he was a
5 product of Highland Park. He was one of the sons.
6 Yet in the same token I think of a young man, his
7 name was Harris. He was a graduate of Cass
8 Technical High School. He got a scholarship to go
9 to --

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Grambling.

11 MR. HEADD: Grambling -- thank you. He
12 went to Grambling, got his degree, come back to
13 Detroit, 22 years old, Kappa, he was going to help
14 a brother, another friend who has another year to
15 do in college, going to help him go -- we are going
16 to give a cabaret. I am going to help you get your
17 money together so you can go to school. In other
18 words, this young man who had his whole life ahead
19 of him, as a matter of fact he had a forty thousand
20 dollar a year job waiting for him. This young man
21 loses his life, trying to do something good, at 22
22 years old. I feel the black rage in a lot of
23 adults for the simple fact that these young men as
24 well as young women have a gift to give and those
25 are the ones that are trying to give it are falling

1 by the way side.

2 A gentleman spoke a few minutes ago
3 about he worked at Ford Motor Company for
4 twenty-seven years. I worked at Ford Motor Company
5 for approximately seven, at Ford Wixom. At that
6 time there was some pressures because these was in
7 the late 60's and earl 70's and I chose to go to
8 college. It took me a long time. I have a lot of
9 gray hair, I am still yet in my early 40's, but
10 these are the trials and tribulations of life. To
11 me, I have to consider every President that we have
12 a great President because he is the commander in
13 chief. President Reagan once said the moral fiber
14 of this country is slowly decaying and it is. To
15 me, as a parent, as an absent parent for the simple
16 fact that my son or my children never had the
17 father that should have been in the house, but that
18 is neither a question or issue right now. The
19 initial issue is as a country and as community and
20 as a state, we must realize that alcohol abuse,
21 drug abuse is a form of mental illness. And we are
22 going to have to treat it as such. We are placing
23 a lot of emphasis on the crime aspect of it and
24 doing the time aspect of it but you have also have
25 to look at the problem, the initial problem itself,

1 you have to make some viable means to reach out to
2 some of the youngsters who have maybe been pulled
3 aside. And the only way that they can do that,
4 that I can see is through your teachers, your
5 parents, and your administrators, because you are
6 the initial focusing point. Laws are constantly
7 changing. You can see the kids out here you can
8 see them - they are living their rap music. Rap
9 music is an art form, but just like when I was a
10 youngster coming up, I was living my music --
11 Smokey Robinson and the Miracles and the
12 Temptations. These youngsters, they are living
13 through their music, and once we can -- get these
14 youngsters to realize that the music is only music,
15 do not try to live through the music, just take it
16 as a form of entertainment, the better off they
17 will be.

18 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any questions. Thank
19 you very much.

20 Jessie Densmore.

21 MS. JESSIE DENSMORE: First, I would
22 like to say I am glad to be here after reading the
23 write up in the Free Press simply because I am what
24 is considered a senior citizen and part of the
25 topic that you have today, the hate crime, is alive

.1 1 and well in too many senior citizens complexes.
2 I happen to be the victim of such. I have been in
3 this particular one that is run by the City of
4 Detroit temporarily, because they are leasing out
5 everythig to some private management group.
6 Now, just the other day I was trying to make a call
7 to my son over in Kalamazoo. Just got the phone
8 last Friday after being in this building for four
9 months, and I hadn't picked a long distance
10 company. So I had to come downstairs and use the
11 public phone. In doing so I made a joking remark
12 to the young lady working there in Housing, and she
13 pulled back a can of germacide at me and declared I
14 was calling her names, when my mind was really on
15 anything other than that at this time. The manager
16 had already written up a Lease To Quit in public
17 housing. I have worked as a licensed practical
18 nurse nearly forty years. I don't deserve this
19 hate. There must be almost this many seniors who
20 sit around judging people. I have a heart
21 condition. Because I don't come in making friends
22 with you after sixty-seven years, I -- I don't need
23 this. The manager was so rude that he told me not
24 to speak again to any employee in there. I
25 committed no crime. I was first looking for my son

1 and three little children to come so I was down
2 there with a baseball bat, two bags of nibbles and
3 and two softballs. Wasn't anybody's business, but
4 they decided I had come down to fight. This was
5 wrong. They don't know what my business was
6 because I talked to absolutely none of them. I try
7 to keep myself quiet because of my heart condition
8 and being in nursing, I know that this helps. As a
9 matter of fact I spent four days in the hospital
10 next door, Riverview Hospital, just last week. I
11 have not even recuperated when this man came to me
12 with this. Because I asked the young lady's name.
13 I wanted to be able to give my son at least one
14 name. She went out of the door into the next room
15 and picked up a chair and came back. Why is it a
16 person who has been in public service, I worked for
17 the State of Michigan, I worked for the County of
18 Wayne before I went on to other temporary services
19 as the nurse that just left here talked about.
20 This is unfair to me. Detroit has more than one
21 kind of discrimination. Everything is not black
22 and white. Some is black on black and some of your
23 worst hate is on old senior citizens that do not
24 understand other people. This is truly unfair to
25 me. When it comes to public housing, I don't know

1 how many criminals are in here, I choose not to
2 speak to anybody, to mind my own business. When
3 the Manager hired by the City of Detroit, they are
4 only there temporarily, they are getting another
5 group to come there. I am not allowed to mention
6 anything I see go on. I had had a much better
7 apartments as a tenant. I bother no body. We are
8 speaking about hate. It is really alive and well
9 in your senior citizen complexes. Don't
10 misunderstand me not everybody but the percentage
11 is far too high.

12 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you very much.
13 Any questions of Mrs. Densmore? Thank you very
14 much.

15 Sherman Williams; and we have two more
16 after Sherman.

17 MR. SHERMAN WILLIAMS: My name is
18 Sherman Williams. I am from Oklahoma, I came up
19 here in 1976, came here and got a job with
20 Chrysler. I was staying in Detroit. I moved out
21 in Romulus, so it means I would have to go back and
22 forth to Romulus and coming through Dearborn on
23 Michigan Avenue at night was worst than eight hours
24 work than fifteen minutes driving through Dearborn,
25 watching behind your back looking for the police

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and all this right here. One night in 1981 I was coming home and an officer pulled me over and he had a stripe on him, and two more came to pull me over. He was talking to my right. The other two calm that's when they were getting the brand new Lincolns. He threw me out of the car. He was a rookie. Whipped me, beat me, everything, took me to the police station. I got out the next day. They charged me fifty dollars. I went to the doctor, I had muscle spasms. The officer that stopped me that had the stripes on his arm, he told me, he was the one that stopped me. The other two whipped me. He took me to the police station. I am in the back, bleeding. He told me to sue the White guy. Now, he White, you know. The next morning, I get a lawyer. It has been going on since 1981 okay. When I went to court it was a woman judge. She was drunk. A year after that they fired her. At the time being that I was going to Court with her, she told me, if I didn't like the United States to go back to Africa. And these is high peoples, you know. If you can't have just high people as ya'all and then you still get messed around, who can you trust? Then after that I say about a year after that, two years after that, they were going to make

1 a settlement with me, but I didn't want the
2 settlement. All I wanted to do was go to court,
3 the guy that had the stripe was testifying for me,
4 that he seen the two police officers whup my butt,
5 but still I haven't been to court yet. Haven't been
6 to court and they still sweeping my case under the
7 court.

8 MS. THOMAS: I remember reading this.
9 Was that in Dearborn Heights?

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. She was drunk. She
11 was really high, her words and everything. And
12 back then, you know, I was from Oklahoma, I was
13 looking for a job just to work, but I was hearing
14 about Dearborn, you know, blacks not allowed to go
15 through Dearborn, blacks are not allowed to do this
16 right here, it was worst up here than down south to
17 me. All of these many years racism don't come from
18 the young people, it comes from the old peoples.
19 Whether or not the old people die out racism will
20 be gone.

21 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any questions?

22 Thank you very much.

23 Mark, how do you pronounce that last
24 name?

25 MR. MARK LALIBERTE: Laliberte.

1 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Following Mark
2 Laliberte will be Vivian Buffington to close the
3 hearing.

4 MR. MARK LALIBERTE: I am Mark
5 Laliberte --

6 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Can you speak louder
7 so they can hear you in the back.

8 MR. LALIBERTE: I am Mark Laliberte an
9 immigrant from Canada. I became an American
10 citizen in 1981. I am a veteran of the armed
11 forces. I am sick. I am getting disability now
12 from what is now the Department of Veterans
13 Affairs.

14 To be as brief as I can, my difficulty
15 began with the service itself, and what I am saying
16 now is that I am against the army, the Department
17 of the Army and the Department of the Navy, which
18 is the Marine Corps and the use of incarsratory
19 (ps) and threatening language against people, dumb
20 people like me when I went in the service. It is
21 extremely difficult to detect this, I don't mean
22 the threatening language, visual, but that someone
23 else was being told the same thing. Jail or to
24 defend the United States. And it took quite a
25 number of years to find this out. I know who he

1 is, he is very timid, does not want to come forward
2 and talk about him. I understand that. I will
3 never mention his name. I understand that.

4 I filed a substantial damage suit
5 against the U.S. Army in 1986, a million dollars
6 for that the type of thing I don't know under what
7 criteria they are making threats, you know, in
8 other words, what, what makes, what is the
9 enlistment procedure in order to these people which
10 are all combat or make threats against anyone in any
11 capacity. I just don't know how. This is what is
12 happening since that. The other person I found out
13 about, that I told, I kept repeating my story over
14 and over and over again anybody I would run into,
15 the different jobs, one other person said oh yes,
16 they told me jail also. Was it the Army, no, it
17 was the Marine Corps. This happened after I was
18 threatened in 1980. This happened quite a number of
19 years later and these people never completed the
20 recruiters that work in METS, they are not local
21 recruiters that work in the different areas like in
22 Detroit, this is in MEPS right down here on Grand
23 River Avenue, who are DOD, when you become a
24 soldier you sign the six documents. I tried to
25 void the contract when I signed one and found that

1 I could not transfer over to another one, the one I
2 wanted. I wanted to void that contract. There was
3 a refusal to do so. You can't do so. I found out
4 years later after I got out of the service, that
5 was a lie. That was a false statement. I know for
6 a fact this is what has been happening, as far as
7 we know this could be still going on, This could be
8 still happening. I did find one other person that
9 did do this to me. I never went to, the case never
10 went to court I didn't have enough moneration (ps)
11 and money to do so. The attorneys were contacting
12 were in my opinion, this is just opinion, they
13 bulked out of the suit as the time I was giving my
14 testimony, I said that discrimniation or racism
15 need to be separated from combat veterans. I am
16 from Canada. It is my contention is after the
17 Vietnam war there was a lot of malice against
18 Canadian born naturalized Americans in this
19 country. I said because of that that
20 discrimination may have been a motive to, you know,
21 degenerate that so-called enlistment down to the
22 point of being told "get in the God damn bus or or
23 I will send you, you know where, jail. I was
24 issued the ultamatium. wasn't actually told jail.
25 But I know now that they are making those types of

1 threats because other people, I found out years
2 later, was actually told jail. That is a direct
3 threat. It is not like an ultimatum. That is
4 what I am here to tell you about, and that is about
5 it.

6 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Okay Mark. Any
7 questions?

8 MR. MARTIN: I have a question.

9 Did you actually serve time in the
10 military?

11 MR. LALIBERTE: I was in the military
12 from 1980 to 1986. I served four years active duty
13 and since I was four years active duty, I was put
14 on the inactive reserve. I did four years or more,
15 I don't have to be in the reserve component. I had
16 threats sent from St. Louis, sir, because I only
17 serve two days less than four years. They were
18 insisting that I --

19 MR. MARTIN: The portion of active
20 duty --

21 MR. LALIBERTE: No, in the reserve once
22 I actually got out. The --

23 MR. MARTIN: In the active reserve
24 unit?

25 MR. LALIBERTE: Yeah. I was sent a

1 document and I went to see attorneys on that one,
2 whether that was the proper thing for them to do,
3 for the reserve component to do that, actually
4 state on the bottom line. It is a supplement to
5 the pink form that they send you. You fill it out
6 and --

7 MR. MARTIN: What was your MOS?

8 MR. LALIBERTE: I was 36 Hotel at the
9 Dial Central Office repairman, but I was in a field
10 unit in Germany, that is a mechanized unit.

11 MR. MARTIN: You didn't require
12 security clearance, didn't need one for that job?

13 MR. LALIBERTE: No, it is not a top
14 secret clearance just secret clearance. So, what
15 I am saying is the Army is fully aware that they
16 are doing a security violations. They actually did
17 call me security violations, years later, and that
18 has been adjudicated as wrongfully entered.
19 This is what I want to tell you Mr. Chairman,
20 notice the connotation of the phrase, wrongful,
21 rather than illegal. It is not violating any
22 criminal statute by making threats. It is a
23 complete contradiction than what the armed forces
24 are supposed to stand for.

25 MR. MARTIN: Just for the record, you

1 mentioned MEPS, what is that?

2 MR. LALIBERTE: That is the Military
3 Enlistment Processing Center or Station. This is
4 where all four branches of the armed forces have
5 recruits come in and sign your contract and six
6 pieces of paper with your training recruiter, in
7 order to enter the service under the particular
8 military skill you wish to be under.

9 MR. MARTIN: MOS is short for --

10 MR. LALIBERTE: Military Occupational
11 Skill. What I ended up with, I told them I wanted
12 any electrical or mechanical MOS that I had. I
13 wasn't able to begin at that time because, they
14 thought I was saying electromechanical switching,
15 so I ended up with Central Office Repair.

16 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Thank you, Mark.

17 MR. LALIBERTE: Thank you very much.

18 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Vivian Buffington.

19 MS. VIVIAN BUFFINGTON: Thank you, it
20 wasn't my intention to testify this morning, this
21 afternoon, but I did want to refer to a couple of
22 remarks and I will be extremely brief.

23 I am the Director of Race Relations at
24 New Detroit here in the City. I want to echo the
25 remarks of Dr. Telfort and Mr. Arcand. I have

1 maintained, and my office maintained for a long
2 time that segregation causes the kinds of problems
3 we are talking about here today. The housing
4 segregation that we experience in this community
5 causes all of these schools around us in the
6 Metropolitan area to be just as segregated. We
7 have seen the ramifications of that, year after
8 year, after year between high school athletic
9 teams, between groups that interact and have
10 racial problems. Compounding is the fact that
11 many, many school officials unlike Dr. Telefort
12 refuse to admit that the school has a problem with
13 race and ethnic relations.

14 I want to talk about, briefly, two
15 programs that New Detroit has done. There are a
16 lot of organizations that are doing the same kinds
17 of things we are doing. But I wanted to give you
18 an idea of the things that work. One is we have a
19 high school conference and exchange program twice a
20 year with tri-county high schools. About sixty
21 schools come together from the Detroit, from the
22 north and south suburbs as far away as Brighton and
23 Holly and Howell, which has a reputation of its
24 own. These students come together and exchange
25 schools. These kinds of exchanges have been going

1 on for six years and have created sustained
2 relationships between the schools and individuals.
3 And we see differences every year in students, even
4 though the students that come are different
5 students. They have gotten by osmosis, by
6 friendship, by whatever means, different ways of
7 thinking, different attitudes about race and
8 ethnicity.

9 The second kind of work that we are
10 doing now is bringing together adults from the
11 cities and the suburbs to talk about what racism is
12 and how they can combat it. We had a very exciting
13 coming together of groups like this about two
14 months ago and they were so enthusiastic about
15 finally beginning to sit down and face each other
16 and talk about issues of hate crimes and ethnic
17 intimidation. They have insisted through their
18 evaluations that we bring them back together very
19 soon which we will do.

20 I just wanted to say one last thing and
21 that is even these kinds of what I consider benign
22 activities have had some personal ramifications for
23 me. I receive lots of hate mail and phone calls
24 and the last hate phone call I got, I will describe
25 to you, I say the last one because after that I got

1 an unlisted phone number. It was from and even
2 now, even though it is two years old, it is still
3 kind of scary. It was from the White Aryan
4 Resistance, and it was fortunately left on my
5 answering machine rather than my picking up the
6 phone and talking to them. They told me that I was
7 a traitor to my race and that they had issued a
8 death warrant. I wasn't as upset about it then as
9 I think about it now, hearing everyone else talk
10 about it. Since we have had an unlisted phone
11 number, we haven't had any more problems like that.
12 But I and others in this room continue to have hate
13 mail from these groups and individuals who simply
14 don't like the fact that we are white and we are
15 standing for, Arab, for Black, Hispanic, doing the
16 work of race relations in this community.

17 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Any questions?

18 Thank you.

19 MR. MARTIN: Have you worked at all
20 with the Metro Teen Conference with New Detroit?

21 MS. BUFFINGTON: Yes. That is
22 another -- as I said there are other organizations
23 who are doing the same thing. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN GIBSON: Have all of the SAC
25 members signed the CCR form attendance form, for

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today? Okay.

The hearings are adjourned. Thank you
very much.

(Hearing concluded)

CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

1 STATE OF MICHIGAN)
 2) - SS
 3 COUNTY OF WAYNE)

4
 5 I, MARILYNN E. DILLARD, a Notary Public
 6 and Certified Court Reporter in and for the County
 7 of Wayne, State of Michigan do hereby certify that
 8 I stenographically recorded the foregoing
 9 proceedings and transcribed the same by means of
 10 Computer-assited Transcription; and the foregoing
 11 pages constitute a true record of the proceedings
 12 on the said date.

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my
 14 hand this 31st of July 1991.

15 
 16 MARILYNN E. DILLARD, CSR-0006
 Registered Professional Reporter

17 Notary Public, Wayne County, Michigan
 18 My Commission Expires: March 11, 1992

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