

APPEAL TO:

PRESIDENT
LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

And To: ALL GOVERNORS of these UNITED STATES

And To: ALL CITIZENS of AMERICA

After three days of serious deliberations at the NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PROGRESS IN EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN HOUSING, held pursuant to the first nationwide observance of "FREEDOM OF RESIDENCE DAYS," (March 18-20, 1965) representing religious, business, labor, civic, and civil rights leaders in communities from thirty states, this APPEAL (a composite of Workshop recommendations) is presented to you, PRESIDENT LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON, to the Honorable Governors of these United States, and to all the citizens of America whose attention may be directed by courtesy of the public press:

(1) We appeal to the President of the United States to promptly perfect the present Executive Order banning discrimination in any federally assisted housing by including all banks and other financing agencies assisted by the government in any way whatsoever.

(2) We appeal to the Governors of all the states to issue Executive Orders (if they have not already done so) known as Codes of Fair Practices and to enforce fully and swiftly all such Executive Orders on all licensed businesses, requiring them to render their services on a non-discriminatory basis.

(3) We appeal to all federal, state, and local governmental agencies to greatly improve their processes of communication to all people of America interested in equal opportunity for all Americans, showing such people the existing remedies and procedures available to them when equal opportunities in housing are being otherwise denied.

(4) We call upon all of the people of the United States and all federal, state, and local governmental officials to popularize in every way possible the terms: "EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BROKERS," "Equal Opportunity Builders," "Equal Opportunity Bankers," "Equal Opportunity Home Owners" for the purpose of calling prompt attention to non-discriminatory rendition of services in conflict with the American heritage of "equal justice under law"; and that equality of opportunity must be practiced now if democracy and freedom are to survive, for indeed, the advent of the Nuclear Age, urbanization and other events have placed, for the first time in human history, a DEADLINE on the attainment of human brotherhood.

(5) We appeal to the people of America for a massive interfaith, inter-racial, inter-occupational, bipartisan crash program for developing a morality on the use of private property by erasing all together from the American scene that climate of opinion that supports a mythical difference between minority people and majority people, causing fear, hate and prejudice through misunderstandings generated by such myths, including the issuance of official public policy declarations from communities all over America declaring that there are no substantial differences between human beings regardless of race, creed, or color, that there shall be equal opportunity in housing for all people to underscore the freedom and unity of all mankind.

(6) We appeal to the people of America for a massive program of education and the use of all public media to show citizens the desirability of integrated communities, particularly encouraging citizen participation in maintaining integrated communities, and encouraging minority people to actively and openly look for homes outside of the ghetto and buy or rent such homes through "Equal Opportunity Housing Tours," "Freedom Fireside Forums," Etc.

(7) We call upon the people of America to support the holding of a great annual INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR FREEDOM OF RESIDENCE, including a COLLEGE STUDENT CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF RESIDENCE, so that the public in general and college faculties in particular, are focused on (a) the horrendous economic, social, moral, and political costs of housing segregation; (2) the terrible urgency to achieve in each community 100% equal opportunity housing; (3) the sharp realization that there has been no progress whatsoever in the removal of housing segregation in communities throughout America; and that all neighborhoods must become "little world communities."

(8) We appeal to all Americans to render their individual services (business, commercial, professional, or otherwise) and invest their time and funds on the basis that provides equal opportunity to all persons, regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin, encouraging all Americans to practice daily the careful application of their financial resources and influence toward the removal of any condition or practice on the part of any business or professional or commercial firm that denies equal opportu-

nity to other persons of life or liberty or property because of race, color, or national origin of any such person, and particularly urging all Americans to immediately set as their standard in the field of residential housing a goal of "100% EQUAL OPPORTUNITY HOUSING" in the community, recognizing that a common failure to have such goal undermines the existing freedoms and opportunities of all citizens of the community and constitutes the largest single economic, social, and moral damage to a community.

(9) We declare that at the heart of the racial housing segregation situation (the costs of which America can no longer afford) lies a substantial body of opinion that holds to the aforesaid myth that Negroes and other minority peoples are different from the majority of human beings in America, and this myth must first be completely erased from the American scene, and this can only be accomplished by dedicated effort on the part of all Americans to a Freedom of Residence program, personally affirmating socializing, factualizing, dramatizing, and legalizing on the unjust racial housing segregation in America and the benefits of the freedom and unity of all mankind.

(10) We, THEREFORE, further declare this bedrock point that the harmony of mankind depends entirely upon the conviction of the unity of mankind, which will provide the spur for all Americans to condemn and to give up the present widespread immorality in the disposition of their real property in America—immorality reflected by the continuous daily denial to many Americans because of race, creed, or color, of equal opportunity to buy or rent the homes they can afford anywhere they choose to live; and we finally appeal to all educational institutions to teach the errors made in the past of seeking to divide up residential areas by race, creed, or color, and stress the political, moral, social, and economic imperatives of obtaining equal housing opportunities for all citizens in every community of America—giving up an anemic type of democracy and making America once more "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

SIGNED: THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON PROGRESS IN EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN HOUSING

by: Donald S. Frey, Chairman