

November 18, 1963

Norman Kurland  
United States Commission  
on Civil Rights  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kurland:

My husband, Carl Braden is out of town, but I know he has written to you on previous occasions when injustices in various places have come to our attention and you have been helpful in correcting these.

Therefore, I want to call to your attention a matter that has just been presented to me. Perhaps you know about it or the Commission has received such a complaint.

I am enclosing some correspondence from Amzie Moore, of Cleveland, Miss. I am sure that you know who Mr. Moore is, and very likely you met him at some time in Mississippi. He is, of course, one of the very key people in the voter registration work in the Delta---in fact is the person who has been doing this work for many years and who laid the groundwork for many of the things that are being done now. It goes without saying that many people in that area are out to get him; in away it is a miracle that he has been able to survive and stay this long. He has been subjected to the most serious economic reprisals and also various forms of petty harrassment as well as physical threats.

You will see from the correspondence that the immediate problem is an indebtedness on a F.H.A. loan, which the government is threatening to sue him for. He says that he has made arrangements which were accepted by a former United State Attorney to pay off this debt by small monthly payments. Now he says that there is a a new United States Attorney there and that this man is refusing to accept the arrangements which had been deemed agreeable by the previous man.

If this is the case, its seems to me that this is not fair and that there must be some ulterior motive behind the threat to sue.

I wonder if you could look into this and see if something can be done to take this added pressure off Mr. Moore. This may seem like a minor matter compared to some of the major injustices that come to the attention of all of us.

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But when you live under the daily pressure that a man like Mr. Moore does, such harassments as these can simply mount up to be the straws that break the camel's back, I think. Obviously he is agreeable to paying the debt and has prepared to make monthly payments, and it is hard to believe that this would not be acceptable if it were not for some extraneous reason. I do not know what the usual arrangement on such payments of like amount are, and of course no one is due any special privilege because he is in the civil rights movement. But neither should he be penalized because he is in that movement and since the arrangements Mr. Moore had proposed were acceptable at one point it is difficult to understand why this was withdrawn. He of course has had an especially hard row to hoe for many years. As he notes in this letter, his hours at the post office where he worked for a long time where cut to almost nothing.

Anything that you could do to help with this situation would be a great service to justice.

Sincerely,

Anne Braden

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