

Kansas Catholic Conference

COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

VINCENT DeCOURSEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE
(913) FA 1-8066

April 12, 1968

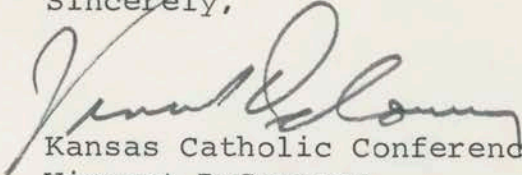
RECEIVED
APR 16 1968
BOB DOLE

Representative Bob Dole
State Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dole:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which was read in all of the Catholic Churches of the State on Sunday, April 7, 1968. It expressed the conviction that action on the part of the White Community is necessary in the promotion of justice for all American Citizens.

Sincerely,


Kansas Catholic Conference
Vincent DeCoursey
Executive Director

Enclosure
VD:bs

Kansas Catholic Conference

COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

VINCENT DECOURSEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE
(913) FA 1-8066

April 5, 1968

Reverend Dear Father and Beloved People:

The shocking and tragic death of one of our nations leaders in the Crusade for racial justice saddens our entire country. It is at once a disgrace to our civil order and an evidence of a social disease which threatens us all. We deplore with all our being the violent death of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Our reaction as Christians must be a positive one, turning us at once to prayer and action. We must pray, and persevere in our prayer, that God will take hatred and resentment out of the hearts of all our people, and that he will bless our land with racial peace.

Let us offer a prayer this morning of sympathy for Dr. King's bereaved family and for the Negro people for whose sake he labored and struggled. Let us pray, too, that God will give them other dedicated, able, responsible men to carry on the campaign for their rights. And let us in a spirit of penance beg Him to remove the blindness of prejudice and bigotry from among our white people which makes such a crime possible.

And as we pray for peace we must redouble our dedication to the cause of racial justice without which that peace cannot come and cannot endure. This means equal education, equal job opportunities and a realistic policy of training for such jobs, and it means fair housing, where a man can live and rear his family in dignity. Now, more than ever, must we who call ourselves Catholics and Christians be found on the side

page 2

of every lawful means to put an end to the discrimination and injustice which have marred our land too long.

May God protect our beloved country from further violence and bloodshed, and may He guide our civil authorities and the leaders of our people, both Negro and White, so that we may achieve peace and equality.

We are brothers in Christ; we are children of the one Father; for the love of the God we adore, let us live in harmony and brotherhood.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Archbishop Edward J. Hunkeler
Kansas City, Kansas

Bishop David M. Maloney
Wichita, Kansas

Bishop Marion F. Forst
Dodge City, Kansas

Bishop Cyril J. Vogel
Salina, Kansas

April 20, 1968

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Mr. Vincent DeCoursey
Executive Director
Kansas Catholic Conference
Commercial National Bank Building
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Dear Mr. DeCoursey:

Thank you for your letter of April 12 with which you enclosed the copy of the letter that went to all the Catholic Churches of the state on April 7.

I am convinced our Nation faces one of the most serious crises in its history and unless responsible people of all races can unite in a spirit of brotherhood and bring about an end to injustice, hate, and intolerance, the end of our very form of government may well be the result.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
Member of Congress

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