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Donna

FYI - CT agreed to be on this advisory board but told me not to send an acceptance letter. I did send ^{① a copy of} the original letter, ^③ Fred Fielding's reply, + ^② our memo to Fred Fielding to Central Files.

CT did not attend the meeting in Washington but they are sending a copy of the tape. CT's name will appear on their letter head. Dick had serious questions about the Bible they sent, So just hold for future reference

December 26, 1985

NOTE FOR CARLTON:

I have read through the material from the American Institute for the Study of Racial and Religious Cooperation, Irvin J. Borowsky, Chairman. It sounds like it has noble goals. However, so did the early efforts of NORML to "decriminalize" marijuana.

As you know, I take Bible study seriously and have taught Bible classes for more than 15 years. I do not agree with revisionary approaches to the Bible. Over the years, numerous scholars have tried to bring the Bible into line with contemporary thinking and to publish revised versions. I suspect that the number would be very large and few have succeeded. Those which have received some acceptance seem to emphasize clarity and modern wording, not deliberate changes to the content. The "Good News" version by the American Bible Society, the "Living Bible", and numerous older versions (International, Revised Standard, etc) are familiar to you. I particularly object to adding new information from other sources or material changes in content to effect a social cause, such as the hopefully doomed attempt to do a "Uni-sex" version. I suspect that very few congregations of any denomination would accept the idea of a revised or expanded Bible as their primary Bible.

I call several of the attached comments regarding the "American Holy Bible" to your attention:

-It is stated that this version addresses "incorrect translations" and this apparently refers to KJV, Revised Standard, etc.

-It is referred to as adding selected passages from Eastern religious scriptures and "inclusion of scriptures of other world religious traditions which support the same spirit of universal human dignity. I was particularly touched by your inclusion of materials from Islam." I sincerely hope that any Islamic references were not included in the text!!

-The assertion that "There is ample evidence that there is within the New Testament the bias of writers who were anti-Jewish" is questionable and seems to have a built-in bias itself. I do not believe that every generation should apply "scholarly discretion" to revising the Bible.

This all sounds fine for a commentary for use in critical study of the canonized Bible. It does not sound so good as a description of a new Bible.

I am not familiar with any other projects of the Foundation.

Dick

C.T.
These are my personal
notes for you - please do
not send them to anyone else
Dick



American Institute for the Study of Racial and Religious Cooperation

December 19, 1985

26 DEC 1985
348

The Honorable Carlton E. Turner
Special Assistant to the President for
Drug Abuse Policy
The White House - 220 OE0B
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. Turner:

We welcome you as a Member of our Advisory Board!

Please be my guest at a private dinner and
"off-the-cuff" dialogue with distinguished
Christian and Jewish leaders.

I will host this special meeting in Washington on
Tuesday, February 4.⁻⁵

The following morning, you are also invited to
attend the eloquent Salute to Israel Breakfast
sponsored by the National Religious Broadcasters.
The featured speaker will be Jeanne Kilpatrick.

I look forward to having you join with us to share
the vitality of both these important events.

Sincerely,

Irvin J. Borowsky
Irvin J. Borowsky
Chairman

Joseph Puder
will video tape - you can see
called 1/31/86 3²⁰ pm to RSOP+
say no.

R.S.V.P.

Advisory Board

The Honorable WALTER H. ANNENBERG
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Professor of Church History
and Jewish Studies
Ashland Theological Seminary
DR. JAMES TANIS
Professor of History, Bryn Mawr College
HON. HERBERT TENZER
Former Member of Congress

National Headquarters: 401 N. BROAD STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19108 (215) 238-5307

12 DEC 1985
3080

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 10, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR CARLTON E. TURNER
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR DRUG ABUSE POLICY

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: The American Institute for the Study of
Racial and Religious Cooperation

This office has no objection to your accepting the invitation to serve on the Advisory Board of the referenced Institute. Long-standing White House policy prohibits staff members from participating in a prominent way in fund-raising campaigns, however, so if you should decide to accept this position, please inform the Institute of this limitation on your service.

OK →

Carl H. E. Howard

& Sand Herb

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 21, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:  CARLTON E. TURNER

SUBJECT: Letter from the American Institute for the Study
of Racial and Religious Cooperation

Attached is a letter from the American Institute for the Study of Racial and Religious Cooperation asking me to serve on their Advisory Board.

As I am unfamiliar with the organization, please advise me if there is any reason that I should not accept the invitation.

Your assistance is appreciated. If you have any questions, please call.



American Institute for the Study of Racial and Religious Cooperation

October 25, 1985

29 OCT 1985

2917

The Honorable Carlton E. Turner
Special Assistant to the President for
Drug Abuse Policy
The White House - 220 OE0B
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. Turner:

Our mutual friend, Herb Ellingwood, suggested that I send you our American Holy Bible. Also enclosed is material describing the Institute.

As thoughtful Americans prepare to celebrate the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, we are inviting you to join with Herb and other leading Americans to build strong bridges of understanding and communication throughout the nation. The walls separating patriotic Americans are waiting to be torn down. Your advice and experience would be a priceless contribution. We truly believe this is God's work.

You'll be especially interested in the development of the American Heritage Museum. We've been looking at sites in the vicinity of Independence Hall and Christ Church and have found two that may be suitable. It will be a center for important exhibitions, seminars and a base for a nationwide educational outreach.

The American Institute for the Study of Racial and Religious Cooperation would be, indeed, honored to have you serve on the Advisory Board.

In order to eliminate undue demands on your time, the Board has been structured informally to handle input mostly through the mail. Annual meetings will be announced well in advance. Your name will be listed as a Member of the Advisory Board in the descriptive material for each program that we offer. Copy will be submitted for your approval prior to release.

May we hear from you by November 14. We will truly welcome your participation as an advisor and look forward to a sound and meaningful association.

Sincerely,

Irvin J. Borowsky
Irvin J. Borowsky, Chairman

IJB:KG

NI:1 National Headquarters: 401 N. BROAD STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19108 (215) 238-5307

Advisory Board

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DR. BEN ARMSTRONG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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REV. C. R. BATCHLOR
New Progress M.B. Church

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University of Virginia

DR. DAVID RAUSCH
Professor of Church History
and Jewish Studies
Ashland Theological Seminary

DR. JAMES TANIS
Professor of History, Bryn Mawr College



American Institute for the Study of Racial and Religious Cooperation

The American Institute for the Study of Racial & Religious Cooperation is a non-profit educational organization committed to

- .an outreach of research and study that develops understanding and empathy between all racial and religious communities,
- .the exploration of the common ground and traditions that link all Americans,
- .sponsoring and building the bridge of communication that benefit all citizens...now and into the future,
- .and a celebration of spirit and faith in keeping with the heritage of our Jeffersonian Democracy.

Our Founding Fathers recognized this great heritage during the formative years of the nation.

George Washington said, "The liberty of the people of these States is not only among the choicest of their blessings, but also of their rights."

Thomas Jefferson noted, "There is surely a conviction in the minds of the people that the liberties of this Nation are the gift of God."

and Ben Franklin wrote, "The longer I live, the more convincing proof I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men."

Biblical scholars have long recognized the changes that the Scriptures have accumulated through the rolling stone of time; through numerous translations and editions.

The American Holy Bible, published by the Institute, is a meticulously researched adaptation of the authorized version. It is a work of authenticity, of purpose, of reverence.

Over the centuries certain New Testament words have had incorrect translations introduced that changed their original intent. These contained the inflammatory content that has caused suspicion and hatred of the Jewish people for over a thousand years.

In the American Holy Bible, these connotations added over many centuries, many cultures and many political regimes have been carefully identified and properly translated to reflect the true spirit of the original Scriptures.

It is especially fitting that the enormous endeavor of bringing the American Holy Bible to life was begun in 1976 - during the Bicentennial of the United States of America. Dedicated to Thomas Jefferson, one of the great minds that tended the birth of this nation, the American Holy Bible is a reverent acknowledgement that religious liberty is the hallmark of our nation. It is a core element that has united the biblical writings and interpretations across the centuries; a Celebration of Faith through Freedom that has made The Bible a keystone for all times.

Joining with thoughtful Americans as they prepare to celebrate the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, the American Institute gives expression to these great ideals of religious freedom. The Institute's programs and projects weave respect for human rights and the sacredness of human differences into a tapestry of national unity.

.The American Holy Bible renews the precepts enunciated by the American Founding Fathers: "In God is our Trust." In addition to the Old and New Testaments, it also contains selections from other scriptures that are in use in this country.

.The Institute Endowment provides and distributes copies of the Bible to the Nation's religious leaders, schools, universities and libraries.

.The Institute Museum, currently under consideration, will house a fine collection of great Bibles that reach across many centuries, many lands, many artisans. It will be a center for important exhibitions, seminars and a base for a nationwide educational outreach to strengthen religious freedom and religious pluralism in America. Sites within the immediate vicinity of Independence Hall are being reviewed.



DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
COCKE HALL

TEL. (804) 924-3741

August 29, 1985

Mr. I. J. Borowsky
American Institute for the Study of Racial
and Religious Cooperation
401 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19108

Dear Mr. Borowsky:

Thank you very much for a copy of The American Holy Bible. The inclusion of selected passages in it from Eastern religious scriptures shows great vision, deep wisdom, and enormous courage. Your endeavor to build bridges of sympathetic understanding between peoples of different races and religions is most admirable; and it is urgently needed in our bleeding world. Your work is entirely in keeping with the spirit of American democracy. I feel honored to be associated with the institute and to serve on its Advisory Board.

The American Heritage Museum is a great and inspiring idea; hope it will be translated into reality soon.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,


K. L. Seshagiri Rao
Professor of Religious Studies
Editor, World Faiths Insight

KL SR/dm

**The Unitarian Manse
Nr. One Tranquil Drive
Charleston, South Carolina 29407**

10 July 1985

Mr. Irvin J. Borowsky
American Institute for the Study of Racial and
Religious Cooperation
401 N Broad St
Philadelphia PA 19108

Dear Mr. Borowsky:

I have had the pleasure of reviewing a copy of the American Bible presented to me a fortnight ago in Washington by Rabbi David Ben-Ami.

I am touched by your effort on behalf of both the communities of Judaism and Christendom, and I personally applaud efforts of scholarly discretion to implement the spirit of universal love within Scripture and to erase accidents of particularisms, which denigrate human dignity.

There is ample evidence that there is within the New Testament the bias of writers who were anti-Jewish. Ian Wilson has recently published a book, Jesus: the Evidence, (Harper & Row, 1984), which I feel deals very cogently with these sorts of questions.

In commenting on the influence of the Jewish insurrection of 66 C.E., he writes:

*This is a
handwritten note
approach to
the text*

Intimately linked to this episode...was the writing of the key canonical gospel of Mark. Generally recognized as having been written in Rome, according to most present day thinking, it was composed around the time of the Revolt and Titus' triumph, and it displays one overwhelming characteristic, a denegation of Jews and a whitewashing of Romans. Whoever wrote Mark portrays Jesus' Jewish disciples as a dull quarrelsome lot, always jockeying for position, failing to understand Jesus, denying him when they are in trouble (as in the case of Peter), and finally deserting him at the time of his arrest. The entire Jewish Establishment, Pharisees, Sadducees, chief priests and scribes, is represented as being out to kill Jesus. Even his own family think of him as "out of his mind" and "want to take charge of him." By contrast, Pilate, the Roman, is portrayed as positively pleading for Jesus' life: "What harm has this man done?" (Mark 15:14). At the very moment when Jesus, amid Jewish taunts, breathes his last, it is a Roman centurion, standing at the foot of the cross, who is represented as the first man in history to recognize Jesus as divine: "Surely this man was a son of God" (Mark 15:39).

. . .pp. 46 ff.
How natural and how appropriate to correct for these unfortunate biases.

Borowsky/p.2

Further there is a spirit within the natural law framework of our American constitution which invites religious pluralism. Even more beautiful than the elimination of anti-Semitic biases within the New Testament is your inclusion of scriptures of other world religious traditions which support the same spirit of universal human dignity. I was particularly touched by your inclusion of materials from Islam.

I shall make efforts to give the American Bible the publicity it deserves and will recommend its inclusion in the inventory of a wholesaler who commonly stocks booktables in our Unitarian-Universalist congregations.

I hope you will feel free to call on me in the future for whatever assistance I can offer you, and I congratulate you on your further ambitious project of the American Heritage Museum.

Yours sincerely,

George David Exoo

George David Exoo
Minister
Unitarian Church
Charleston

United States Senate
OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN
RICHARD C. HALVERSON, D.D.

March 20, 1985

Mr. Irvin J. Borowsky
American Institute for the Study of
Racial and Religious Cooperation
401 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19108

Dear Mr. Borowsky:

It was a pleasure meeting you and having a visit. I want to express my appreciation for your vision for building bridges between Jews and Christians and I am very happy to be identified with your Advisory Board.

May God bless you in all of your dedicated efforts.

Shalom . . .

Affectionately,



Richard C. Halverson



THE SHAW DIVINITY SCHOOL

Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

755-4846/755-4811

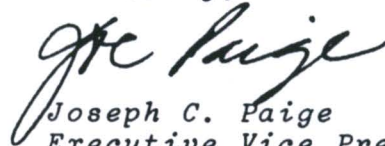
August 22, 1985

Dr. David Z. Ben-Ami, Rabbi
% The American Institute for the Study of
Racial and Religious Cooperation
401 N Broad Street
Philadelphia PA 19108

Dear Dr. Ben-Ami:

I'm excited about the offer of Bibles. I'd like to get
as many as we can get - perhaps 20-30 for the library,
50 for our prison ministry and 50 for our youth
organization. Can you spare 100-125 Bibles? You see, I
want every person to have access to a Bible.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Paige
Executive Vice President

JCP:JLG

We are moving ahead on our fronts.

I. J. Borowsky



Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal Church

48 Alexander Street

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403

Church Office:

341 East Bay Street
803/723-1829

Levern Stevenson
Pastor

August 28, 1985

American Institute for the Study of Racial
and Religious Cooperation
401 N Broad Street
Philadelphia PA 19108

Dear Sir:

Dr. David Z. Ben-Ami introduced me to the new edition of the American Holy Bible. Immediately, it began to make sense to me. It made me aware that prejudices against the Jewish peoples have often been taught to us and conveyed by us, at times unwittingly.

Our Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, also known as the A.M.E., is the oldest and largest black church in America, founded in Philadelphia in 1787. We have the distinction of celebrating our bi-centennial simultaneously with the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, to be observed in 1987. We have 3,000,000 members in the United States affiliated with our churches located in every state of the union and throughout the world.

Recently, I met with bishops and other leading ministers of our Church and reviewed your new Bible with them. They are very enthusiastic about the scope of the Institute's American Bible and its focus on the intent of the Founding Fathers of the nation. Clearly, it fills a need and adds to our own Bicentennial activities.

We would like to purchase a large quantity of the American Holy Bibles, which would include a special message insert in observance of the A.M.E. Bicentennial. Can the American Institute for the Study of Racial and Religious Cooperation help us by subsidizing part of the production cost? We could then see our way to purchasing up to 200,000 copies for our members throughout America.

Please let us know as soon as possible your best price.

Brotherly yours,

Laverne Stevenson

TABERNACLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

11328 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90059
(213) 569-4162

REV. F. DOUGLAS FERRELL, FOUNDER
REV. CHARLES A. MIMS, JR., PASTOR

June 5, 1985

Mr. I. J. Borowsky
American Institute for the Study of
Racial and Religious Cooperation
401 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19108

Dear Mr. Borowsky:

We have carefully and thoughtfully reviewed the American Holy Bible published by the Institute. My colleagues and I agree that it is, indeed, a superb work...a Book of Love.

The American Holy Bible fully honors the intentions of the Founding Fathers of this country. It celebrates our unique heritage: the remarkable religious freedom and cooperation that is built into our nation's Constitution.

The Institute is to be congratulated for publishing this unifying Bible for all Americans. It is, truly God's work.

As you know, our church is the largest Black church in Watts and we have hundreds of ministers affiliated with our congregation and denominational work who are in need of a marvelous Book, such as your Bible. They have the hearts and ears of their people and a love for God and their Country, but no money with which to purchase the vitally needed WORD of God.

As Vice President of the Roundtable, I am committed to rebuilding the inner-cities of America which is the "new frontier". My brothers and I thank you and your colleagues for helping us build bridges of Love, thus strengthening the ties across ethnic lines in this great country of ours.

I look forward to serving on the Institute's Board of Advisors and participating with you in the formation and ministries of the American Heritage Museum of the Bible. It, too, is a vital project that will do much to further successful and sensitive communication among all the peoples of this nation.

Please send me 1,000 copies of the Institute's "American Holy Bible", as well as your own travel itinerary for distribution to my colleagues at next month's convention.

May God keep you healthy and active for this most important work.

Sincerely,



REV. CHARLES MIMS, JR., PASTOR
TABERNACLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH



DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
COCKE HALL

TEL. (804) 924-3741

August 29, 1985

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American Institute for the Study of Racial
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401 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19108

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K. L. Seshagiri Rao
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Editor, World Faiths Insight

KLRSR/dm