

OCT 18 1962

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4287 Larchmont
Detroit 4, Michigan
October 16, 1962

N.A.A.C.P.
Education Committee
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned with implications regarding book "Our United States" which is being used at Durfee Junior high school, the use of which has prompted Mr. Richard Henry to withdraw his son from Social Studies class.

This book must go!

We are already sorely grieved over the inadequacy of the books in the public libraries our family attends (Duffield and Lothrop).

For instance: "Centerburg Tales" makes great sport of torturing Indians (dizzying them in a rolling barrel which crashes into tree and hurls them into water) and deciding the Indians like this treatment so much they should be charged for the "fun!". This is typical of the white man's attitude but it doesn't belong in children's books.

Another book "The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle, by Hugh Lofting, depicts, illustration and all, the little white boy sitting on the warf longing "to seek my fortune in foreign lands - Africa, India, China and Peru!" (Pg. 84) What a horrible price these very countries have paid in exploitation and slavery for being in that little white boy's dream. First copyrighted in 1922, this favorite colonialism stereotype must certainly irk students and visitors from these dark countries who visit our libraries. It is the wrong dream in the wrong time.

Enclosed is copy of letter to Dr. Carl Byerly

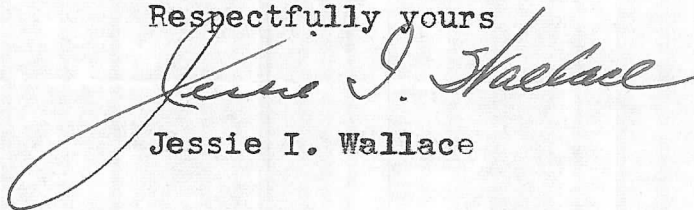
Education material sent 11/29/62

2.

protesting "Our United States" on behalf of the
Henry family.

Please notify us of progress in this case
as press has been silent on it lately. If it goes
to court we want to be there.

Respectfully yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessie I. Wallace". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned directly below the typed name.

Jessie I. Wallace

JW/jw

Copy

4287 Larchmont
Detroit 4, Michigan
October 16, 1962

Dr. Carl Byerly, Assistant Superintendent
Division for the Improvement of Instruction
5057 Woodward
Detroit 2, Michigan

Dear Sir:

We are deeply offended by the use of
"Our United States" in Social Studies Department
of our school system.

The beggarly role given the Negro in this
textbook is neither true nor fair. It does
violence to the efforts of all men of good will
who would abandon the old stereotypes and get
on with the work of educating our children so
they will know the worthwhile contributions
of all races to the history of this country.

The Detroit Board of Education recently
was lauded for its use of an interracial primer.
Now let's not take a step backward.

We implore you to remove "Our United States"
from your approved list of textbooks. It is a
moral duty.

Respectfully yours

Jessie I. Wallace

JW/jw