

# WE NOW TO AVENGE ATTICA!

Not with bullets. But with lawsuits.

It comes as no surprise to us that of mail and of reading material, the

# WE VOW TO AVENGE ATTICA.

## **Not with bullets. But with lawsuits.**

Not with official barbarism. But with legal warfare.

There must be some legal way to prevent future Atticas. To stop the torture of prisoners. To rehabilitate men rather than mold criminals.

We believe this can be achieved by constant litigation and administrative challenge, pressing for major and minor reforms, attacking every aspect of our prison systems, which the President and Chief Justice have called "universities of crime."

It comes as no surprise to us that inmates would rather die than live under these conditions.

## **These conditions can be changed.**

At the Legal Defense Fund, we've managed to force a few improvements. In our case against the ghoulish Cummins and Tucker Prison Farms in Arkansas, the entire prison system of the state was declared unconstitutional.

In New York State, we successfully attacked the practice of throwing

of mail and of reading material, the mingling of juveniles with adults and, of course, the ubiquitous lack of adequate medical care. Last week, we helped secure lawyers the right to speak to their clients at Attica.

We *must* win these cases and hundreds more before inmates will be accorded equal conditions with the animals in our zoos, not to mention human rights and human dignity.

To say we need your help is an almost ludicrous understatement. What we're fighting is the indifference of government and the inertia of con-

**NOT WITH BUNTS, BUT WITH LAWSUITS.**

Not with official barbarism. But with legal warfare.

There must be some legal way to prevent future Atticas. To stop the torture of prisoners. To rehabilitate men rather than mold criminals.

We believe this can be achieved by constant litigation and administrative challenge, pressing for major and minor reforms, attacking every aspect of our prison systems, which the President and Chief Justice have called "universities of crime."

#### **More Atticas to come.**

In our own experience, we've seen the nucleus of future Atticas everywhere. Inmates sleeping on vomit-soaked mattresses (or none at all), children in solitary confinement, cells infested with rats, lizards, unidentified vermin and human excrement, men beaten, or, in one case, killed indiscriminately.

Some prisons give their inmates one half-hour of fresh air per month. Half of our county and municipal jails (which house persons accused but not convicted of crimes) have no medical facilities whatsoever, 85% have no recreational facilities, 25% allow no visitors, 1% have no working toilets.

It comes as no surprise to us that inmates would rather die than live under these conditions.

#### **These conditions can be changed.**

At the Legal Defense Fund, we've managed to force a few improvements. In our case against the ghoulish Cummins and Tucker Prison Farms in Arkansas, the entire prison system of the state was declared unconstitutional.

In New York State, we successfully attacked the practice of throwing naked inmates in unfurnished cells for minor rule infractions, in Ohio the institution of slow starvation and oubliettes (secret dungeons).

In Little Rock, we closed the punishment "hole." In Maine, we forced the legislature to enact decent minimum standards for solitary confinement. In dozens of states we've managed to obtain a few basic rights for at least some prisoners.

#### **And we've just started.**

At the moment, we're representing prisoners in 63 separate cases, including Attica. These involve punishment "holes," arbitrary discipline, racial discrimination, denial of access to courts and to counsel, denial of freedom of worship, arbitrary censorship

of mail and of reading material, the mingling of juveniles with adults and, of course, the ubiquitous lack of adequate medical care. Last week, we helped secure lawyers the right to speak to their clients at Attica.

We *must* win these cases and hundreds more before inmates will be accorded equal conditions with the animals in our zoos, not to mention human rights and human dignity.

To say we need your help is an almost ludicrous understatement. What we're fighting is the indifference of government and the inertia of generations.

The only way we can avenge the dead is to sustain the living.

**NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund  
10 Columbus Circle, New York City 10019**

I wish to support your effort to protect Prisoners' Rights through action in the courts.

Enclosed is contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to LDF. All contributions tax deductible.

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, since 1939 the principal legal arm of the civil rights movement, represents civil-rights activists in all organizations as well as those without organizational connections. It won the famous *Brown* decision ordering desegregation of schools in 1954. Hundreds of cases later, in the spring of 1971, it won the *Charlotte* school case—resulting currently in wide spread student integration in the South. It pioneered in the courts for equal access to jobs, to housing, to municipal services. Director-Counsel Jack Greenberg and Associate Counsel James M. Nabrit, III, head a staff of 28 lawyers working with cooperating attorneys throughout the country. Its officers include William T. Coleman, President; Francis E. Rivers, President Emeritus; Louis H. Pollak, Vice President; Dr. George D. Cannon, Secretary, and Mrs. Thornburg Cowles, Treasurer. Bishop Paul Moore, Jr. heads the "Committee of 100" in support of LDF.

# LEGAL DEFENSE FUND