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Letters: Outgoing (1990-1994): Correspondence 41

John L. Trothingham

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Mrs John L. Trothingham
32 Country Club Road
New Canaan, Connecticut 06840

Feb 16 1992

AC
copy

Dear Claborn

In addition to what John wrote
concerning NEA, I am adding the
enclosed - Could something be
done about this horrible situation?
Thought you might be interested in
this information.

Best regards

"Tish" Trothingham

John W. Whitehead

Attorney at Law

Founder and President
The Rutherford Institute

P.O. Box 7482
Charlottesville, VA 22906

Dear Friend,

I had been warned it was shocking and offensive. But, despite the warnings, I was unprepared for the picture that I was looking at.

At first I felt numb. I blinked and refocused my eyes--hoping that I wasn't seeing clearly. But, the numbness soon wore off--and was replaced with a sickening feeling of repulsion.

As I sat behind my desk, staring at the picture in disbelief--I knew something had to be done.

Let me explain. A concerned friend sent me a page of a publication recently funded by the National Endowment for the Arts which graphically portrayed Jesus Christ performing explicit sexual acts with another man.

It is utterly disgusting that anyone would draw such a picture--yet even a far greater travesty that this repugnant piece of so-called "art" was paid for by our hard-earned tax dollars.

I hesitated sending a copy of this "hate-art" to you for fear of offending you.

But after receiving calls and letters from many individuals who could not believe the N.E.A. would fund such "hate-art" and who wanted proof of how their tax dollars are actually being spent, I decided to give as many concerned citizens like you as possible the choice whether or not to see and read it for yourselves.

I suggest you might not want to look at the drawing nor read the copy. It is certainly not suitable for family viewing. That is why I have folded and glued it closed with a caution written on the outside.

But if you choose to open it, you will see why I was stunned--and angered.

You will also see why I am very angry about the way our tax dollars are being spent and why I ask you to join me in saying with a loud voice--enough is enough!

Enough of our tax dollars have been used to defame Christ!

The picture of Christ engaged in homosexual activity appears on a page in a publication called Performance Journal 3. Performance Journal 3 was produced by "Movement Research" in New York City. "Movement Research" received a \$4,400 grant from the

National Endowment for the Arts (N.E.A.), approximately \$1,400 of which was used for Performance Journal 3.

The N.E.A., the federal tax-funded agency, brought us the following so-called works of "art":

*The cross of Christ submerged in a jar of urine,

*Jesus Christ portrayed as an intravenous drug user,

and now,

*Jesus Christ performing explicit sexual acts with another man.

I thought we had seen the depths of how low the N.E.A. could go, but it seems it is an agency totally out of control and without limits.

I believe that The Rutherford Institute may have to step in and take legal action if we are to put an end to the N.E.A.'s anti-Christian bigotry.

I have instructed our staff attorneys to immediately investigate a possible lawsuit to stop the federal government from funding "art", which portrays Christ as a homosexual and thereby denigrates the Christian faith.

Such a lawsuit would challenge the "right" of the United States Government to compel you -- the taxpayer -- to fund art that profanes Christ and makes you a party to this profanity.

The federal government has no business funding art that submerges the Cross of Christ in a jar of urine, depicts Christ as a drug addict and homosexual or promotes anti-Christian bigotry.

Can you imagine the outcry from the various interest groups if ANY of these funds were used for pieces of art that portrayed morality and the Christian faith in a positive light?

Can you imagine the outcry if federal tax dollars were used to pay for "art" that discriminated against certain minority groups?

My friend, the time has come for immediate action to help bring a halt to this vicious discrimination against Christians and other religious citizens.

It is time to..."light a candle -- instead of just cursing the darkness."

That is why I am asking you to sign and return the enclosed Anti-Discrimination Citizen Petition to President Bush asking him to use the full power of his presidential office to counter this

growing anti-Christian bigotry and hatred.

We have already delivered more than 500,000 of these petitions to the White House.

But to really have an impact -- we need thousands more signed petitions from every state in the nation returned so we can tally them and present them to the President. Our goal is to deliver another 500,000 petitions in the next few months.

My friend, our Constitution has been seriously distorted.

Government officials say that giving thanks to Christ on public property is a crime against the Constitution -- but attacking Christ on public property is not only legal -- it is worthy of taxpayer dollars -- YOUR TAXPAYER DOLLARS!

As a constitutional attorney and author of more than a dozen books defending religious liberty, I can tell you this:

THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM ACCOMMODATING RELIGIOUS BELIEFS...

...AND IT DOES NOT ALLOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH VICIOUS AND SLANDEROUS ATTACKS AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, OR IN ANY OTHER RELIGIOUS FAITH FOR THAT MATTER.

That's why the attorneys at The Rutherford Institute are considering a lawsuit to put an end to this erroneous interpretation of our United States Constitution -- and why I am asking you to sign the enclosed Citizen Petition to President Bush to let him know how you feel about this.

If we win, the National Endowment for the Arts will not be permitted to take one more tax dollar from you to blaspheme Christ -- or any other religious belief.

IT'S TIME FOR CHRISTIANS AND OTHER CONCERNED AMERICANS TO TAKE A STAND AND DEFEND THEIR RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES AND HERITAGE.

I DON'T WANT THIS ANTI-CHRISTIAN BIGOTRY FORCED ON ME AND MY FAMILY AND PAID FOR WITH MY OWN TAX DOLLARS!

The Rutherford Institute needs your financial support. We receive no federal funds of any kind. Our efforts to defend religious liberties in court are funded solely by private donations from concerned Americans like you.

We operate on a minimum budget. But we have some of the best constitutional attorneys in the country working with us. (That's why The Rutherford Institute wins cases.)

So when you return your signed petition, will you please help The Rutherford Institute get this petition into the hands of many more concerned citizens like yourself and also help us

defend your rights in court with a generous contribution?

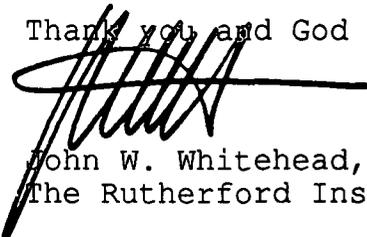
Please do two things today:

1. Join me in saying "enough is enough" by signing and returning the enclosed Citizen Petition to President Bush asking him to help bring an end to bigotry and discrimination against Christian citizens.
2. Send a tax-deductible contribution of \$70, \$35, \$17.50 or whatever you can afford to help The Rutherford Institute with this and our other important projects.

Those who discriminate against Christians enjoy the freedom in this country to paint pictures or take photographs that attack Christ.

BUT THEY DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO FORCE YOU AND ME TO PAY FOR IT WITH OUR TAX DOLLARS.

Thank you and God bless you,



John W. Whitehead, President
The Rutherford Institute

P.S. Edmund Burke once said..."All that is necessary for evil to triumph, is for good men (and women) to do nothing."

Please help us do something positive by returning your signed petition and gift today.