

6 Kevin Road
Milton - Massachusetts

December 14, 1976

Dear Fellow Member:

The Milton Human Rights Fellowship was founded, in part, to put an end to discrimination in the leasing and sale of homes in our town.

We have come a long way, but not all the way. We have reliable information that would-be black purchasers or lessees are being channeled by realtors only to certain sections of the town.

There are two practices which are particularly dangerous - red-lining and block-busting.

Red-lining means that realtors and financial home loan institutions will permit minority persons in specially designated areas only, to acquire or lease property. In Milton, it appears that Precincts 1 and 2 are the designated areas.

Block-busting is the term for the use of scare tactics by unscrupulous realtors. The usual technique is to approach white home-owners on a street where a black family has purchased a house and suggest that the whites had better sell quickly, or the value of their property in a changing neighborhood will rapidly decline.

If this tactic is successful, the unscrupulous realtor purchases at a low price from the concerned home-owner, and then turns around and sells to a black family at a much higher price.

The defense against this strategem is neighborhood solidarity, to give assurance that no one need sell through fright, but only in the normal course of events and certainly not at deflated prices.

We are asking you to bring to the attention of the Fellowship any evidence which you may observe or hear of, as to either of these destructive and pernicious practices.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Antonitis

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President