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Correspondence between Norman Dorsen & Michael Tigar

Norman Dorsen

Michael Tigar

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April 6, 1970

Professor Michael Tigar
University of California
School of Law
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Mike:

I'll be happy to attend an exploratory meeting in the East on the interesting issues you and your colleagues present in your joint letter of March 30th. I would prefer it if the meeting could be confined to one day.

Sincerely,

Norman Dorsen

ND:mle

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

SCHOOL OF LAW
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

March 30, 1970

Dear *Norman*

It has occurred to us that it might be useful to meet periodically with other like-minded law teachers to discuss and act upon matters of common interest and concern. Although we have no rigid notions of ideological purity, we suppose that "like-minded" means in this context a commitment to or sympathy for the new left, or the radical movements, as they manifest themselves today.

Very roughly, there are at least three general topics on which we would welcome a sharing of views:

- 1) Problems internal to legal education--e. g., curricular reform, teaching technique, participation of students and others in the governance of law schools and the university, minorities in law school.
- 2) Problems of legal academics--e.g., what kinds of research can most appropriately and usefully be undertaken by persons like ourselves, what roles can and should we play in respect to the bench and bar, and to the radical movement.
- 3) Problems of the society at large--e.g., what sorts of roles can we most usefully play in bringing about needed changes in the society.

What we propose as a first step is an exploratory meeting to be held this spring--on Saturday, May 9th and Sunday morning, May 10th--to see whether a caucus of radical law professors (or some such entity) ought to be brought into being, and if so how. Given the location of most of the addressees of this letter, it looks as though the meeting can be held most cheaply and easily in the East, probably in the New York area. We propose further that everyone's expenses be borne by the entire group. With any luck at all we should be able to get by with it costing each participant between \$50.00 and \$75.00, depending upon precisely who comes from where.

We will select a definite site as soon as we hear from all of you, and we will endeavor to reserve inexpensive accommodations for all who desire them. So, please reply by return mail to anyone of the three of us, let us know what you think of the idea and whether you can come. We will then be back in touch with you as to specifics.

We have enclosed a list of all to whom this letter has been sent. We have no desire to be exclusive. If you know of someone else whom you think should be invited, by all means make a copy of the letter, give it to him and tell him to write to us. We do think, though, that a reasonably small group is probably useful for a meeting devoted to informal discussion and planning for next steps.

Yours in the struggle,

Leon Letwin

Leon Letwin

Mike Tigar

Mike Tigar

Dick Wasserstrom

Dick Wasserstrom

scm
Enc.

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April 16, 1970

TO: Radicals, Liberals, etc.

FROM: Letwin, Tigar and Wasserstrom

We have reluctantly decided not to go forward with the proposed conference on May 9-10. Although almost everyone who responded was enthusiastic, a number of persons did not respond. Hence, given the probable attendance, the expense per person would have been quite high. More importantly, a number of things are happening on the UCLA campus that make it difficult for us to predict with any degree of confidence how our energies will be spent over the next month. The Angela Davis case is coming to a head. And more recently, the Governor has called for an investigation (with a view toward their continued employment by the University) of four faculty members, one of whom is Michael Tigar. In case you haven't heard about it, the charges against Tigar are: (1) that he spoke at a rally in which funds were solicited for the defense of the Chicago 7, and he there criticized the Courts; and (2) that he spoke to "insurgents" at Valley State College who thereafter made "impossible" demands on the administration. Such is the contemporary climate in California.

We still think the idea of a conference is a good one. Perhaps those who are on the East Coast ought to get together and talk informally, and those who are in the West ought to do the same. Perhaps, too, there could be an informal gathering at the next AALS meeting. Or maybe we ought to try for a more formal meeting for sometime next year.

We welcome suggestions as well as the names of interested parties, and we will probably be back in touch with those of you who responded in the fall.

scm