

North Jackson Nursing Home  
North State St. Exten.  
Jackson, Mississippi  
November 13, 1966

Rabbi Norman Lamm  
Manhattan's Jewish Center  
New York, New York

Dear Rabbi Lamm:

You will be surprised, no doubt, to get a letter from a guy like me way down in the heart of the "Bible Belt" and Dixie, too. I am writing to you, not because we do not have any people of Jewish extraction in Jackson, but, because people who live in your part of the country are prone to see things in a different light than people down here.

Lest you think that I am a crank-and I am in many ways, you can find about me by referring to any one or all of the following people; State Supt. of Education, J. M. Tubb, Jackson; Ex-State Supt. of Education, W. F. Bond or Mr. Walter Byrd, Director of Veterans Administration Center both of Jackson.

We are having a hard, hard time, Rabbi Lamm, trying to build a nursing home in a Negro area of Jackson. There is no serious objection to the location of the home due to the fact that all, or practically all, of the inmates of the home will be Negroes. The home will be under the management of a mixed group, representing most of the regilious sects in the entire community of Jackson.

Our big "dead cat on the line" came about because we jumped the gun and began construction on a site bought with a loan before we knew that the mortgage money "squeeze" was just around the corner. We do have FHA financing in the offing, if and when, we can raise \$150,000.00 to pay off our current obligations. FHA pays off only at the completion of construction, a fact that kills us. We also have some help promised from some of the "Great Society" programs but this, too, is too far in the future-since the election last Tuesday still further off.

Since this nursing home is being built for people eligible for Medicare and since only two nursing homes in the whole of Mississippi have fully qualified under the guidelines laid down by the Federal Government and since there are over 21,000 people in the state 65 years old or older, there can be no doubt about the fact that what we are trying to do is worth while. Please, somebody tell us what to do!

According to the Census of 1960, 44% of the population of Mississippi is Negro, yet it was only last week that a Negro was elected to a minor county office since reconstruction. Negroes at best are no better than second class in Mississippi. That is, the rank and file of the Negro population.

If and when you make reply to this letter, send your answer to J. A. Bishop, 215 Cooper Road, Jackson, Miss. 39212. This despite the fact that is worthy of no more than the waste basket.

With respect and honor, I am,

*J. A. Bishop*  
J. A. Bishop, Director