



# AIADC

## AMERICAN INDIAN ANTI-DEFAMATION COUNCIL

215 West Fifth Avenue    Denver, Colorado (USA) 80204

(303) 892-7011

RUSSELL MEANS  
CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

June 1, 1993

JOE D. LOCUST, SR.  
CO-CHAIR FOR OPERATIONS

WARD CHURCHILL  
CO-CHAIR FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

GLENN MORRIS  
CO-CHAIR FOR LEGAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

SANDRA JANIS  
OFFICE DIRECTOR

Rapid City School Board  
Sharon Lee, President  
Rapid City Area School Admin. Offices  
300 6th Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Dear School Board Members,

I would like to thank you for the meeting we had on Friday, May 28, nevertheless, I was extremely saddened by the lack of discussion from the school board with the news media about the real issues of racism in the Rapid City School District.

These issues are the racist horrors facing the children of Rapid City. The failure of the school board and the media to discuss the climate of fear that permeates the entire school system, from the teachers (both Indian and non-Indian) to the students, is unacceptable. In order to eradicate bigotry, police state fear and child abuse in the Rapid City school system, you have to clearly admit to the racism and openly commit yourselves to the solutions and challenges proffered by the General Council of Rapid City.

We have documentation that fifth graders in your school system are taken on tours of the Juvenile Detention Center. From the sixth grade and up, children have been threatened by your school administrators, and in many cases, taken by the police to these detention centers. When they are not arrested, they are threatened with handcuffs, and, in many cases, handcuffs are actually applied. This type of psychological and physical child abuse will no longer be tolerated by the parents who care. The psychological terror that you subject Indian children to at Dakota Junior High and North Junior High, and the psychological terror and police state tactics you use against teachers, cannot be condoned by anyone.

### ADVISORY BOARD

SENATOR JAMES ABOUREZK

MR. GEORGE CARLIN

MR. ROBERT COMSTOCK

PROFESSOR VINE DELORIA, JR.  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

REV. GIL HORN  
COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

DR. M. ANNETTE JAIMES  
CSERA, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

MS. WINONA LADUKE

CHIEF WILMA MANKILLER  
PRINCIPAL, CHIEF, CHEROKEE NATION

PROFESSOR JOHN MOHAWK  
SUNY, BUFFALO

MRS. CAHUITLA RED ELK  
AMERICAN INDIAN LIFE CENTER,  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

PROFESSOR GEORGE TINKER  
ELFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY