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## Letter from Mildred Persinger to Senator Charles Goodell, February 13, 1970

Mildred Emory Persinger

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Letters - Politics

'70

Senator Charles Goodell  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator,

I was very much encouraged to learn that you expect to vote against the confirmation of Judge G. Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court. This is certainly in line with the courageous and independent stand you have consistently taken on vital national issues since New York State was fortunate enough to fall heir to your service in the Senate.

The time has come, it seems to me, to let it be known that the Supreme Court is not a representative body charged with legislating for the American people. There is no place on the highest judicial authority for the ~~narrow~~ parochialism which can be bred in narrow, self-isolating enclaves of the country which seem to resist becoming part of contemporary America, I believe. Nothing I can find in Judge Carswell's record convinces me that he has moved out of this psychological cul-de-sac.

Another compelling reason for rejecting the appointment is its effect on black citizens who are working to make the system respond to the needs of all the people. This appointment, added to budget cuts and legislative threats which militate against their efforts to enter the main stream of political and economic activity, suggest that perhaps it is impossible to get justice through legal channels.

The young, too, are observing the trends toward a more rigid and even repressive stance in governmental circles. It is heartening to know that there are men in the Senate like yourself who understand its national leadership role at a time when policy formulation could sink to the level of a numbers game.

The Senate has an opportunity now as it has not in many years, it appears, to reassert its role as the counselor of the President. Letting him know that the Supreme Court should not be infected with sectionalism, I believe, is a good place to start. (Gulf of Tonkin next!)

With appreciation for the way in which you represent me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Richard B. Persinger

February 13, 1970