

MEMO

TO: Otis Graham
FROM: John Tanton
DATE: March 3, 1993

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For a decade or more, I have been musing about the drift in our society back toward organization along group lines, all the while realizing that there was no group for me - no legitimate group that I could join to further or defend my own particular social, cultural or linguistic interests. It seemed that at some point, demographic and other trends would finally bestir the sleeping majority to action . . . but probably long past the time when action should have been taken. While cross-country skiing recently, things finally came together. The enclosed draft proposal for a new organization is the result.

I would very much appreciate your **extremely frank** reactions to it. Are the ideas sound? Is the name right? Are the three program areas valid in and of themselves? Are there others that should be included? Are they compatible, so that they can live together in the same organization in a mutually reinforcing way? How about the proposed membership categories? While I'm not asking you to do so, is this the type of effort with which you'd be willing to associate yourself? If not, why not?

I do not know yet whether anything will come of this, or if so, whether I will commit major amounts of time, energy and resources to it. At age 59, and with the establishment of several national organizations behind me, I need to pick my targets carefully and in a way that reinforces what has gone before. As you'll see, there are elements of previous endeavors in this new one.

Any counsel and advice you can give will be much appreciated.

JHT/nlc

Enclosure



Prospectus

LEADERS

LEAGUE FOR EUROPEAN-AMERICAN DEFENSE, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH

Over the great sweep of human history, individuals have almost always found the major part of their identity in some group. The group identified with was variously religious, ethnic, racial, political, and so forth. Seldom has the individual stood alone as a solitary mote in the face of a difficult universe, as Henley envisioned in his poem *Invictus* ("I am the master of my fate/I am the captain of my soul"). Thanks to human nature (primate nature, according to Robert Ardrey in his *Territorial Imperative*), we all need some group into which we can retreat for security ("there's safety in numbers") and from which we can draw our identity ("I am a Roman!").

In North America, over the past several hundred years, a concerted effort was made toward greater individualism, with judgment based more on merit than on group membership. We perhaps reached the high point of this effort with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its concept of color-blind integration, but the ink was barely dry before, paradoxically, minority groups began a counter move toward *disintegration*, perhaps feeling that they stood to lose their identity and culture through amalgamation with others different from themselves. The cry has become *for* separate and equal, rather than *against* it. Perhaps human nature was triumphing over ideology? In any event, all across the globe, we now see the power of the group idea reasserting itself. However much some might regret this, it is nonetheless the demonstrable fact.

In the United States, where we are also moving away from individual rights and liberties and toward group-based rights and entitlements, there is currently no socially acceptable umbrella organization to which persons of European ancestry can belong to defend and promote their common interests. Absent such an organization in a highly organized society, European-Americans will continue to see their history rewritten, their character and accomplishments denigrated, and their faults magnified. They will steadily lose ground and position to other groups that have gotten themselves organized to look after *their* interests. For those not resigned to this gradual or not so gradual decline, a new organization tailored to the needs and interests of European-Americans as a group is essential. We propose forming just such an organization.

Perhaps the most important feature of this new group will be its name, for this will convey the first image to the outside world. The name should include all of the groups and interests it seeks to represent. Ethnic terms such as Anglo or German are too narrow. Racial or gender terms are inappropriate. Hence the suggestion of

European-American, which casts a wide net and parallels in structure the names of other interest groups. It embraces all of European origins who care to identify with the program outlined below.

The second part of the name should express clearly exactly what it is that the group does or stands for. The phrase "for Defense, Education, and Research" embraces most of what needs to be done:

--First: we need to **DEFEND** ourselves and our tradition against attacks that are now coming from all quarters.

--Second: we need to better **EDUCATE** ourselves and others on our common culture, in the spirit of self improvement.

--Third: **RESEARCH** is needed on many factual matters that are in dispute.

Since many other interest groups have adopted similar programs, this should be unobjectionable for us as well, unless the position is that European-Americans shouldn't have such representation.

PROGRAM

Three main areas are of concern:

I. The denigration of Western Civilization. Western traditions and culture are under siege, particularly in academe, but also by some other interest groups which see running down Western Civilization as being to their advantage. In contrast, we see our heritage, for all of its defects and need for further enlightenment and improvement, as something to be proud of and worthy of support. We wish to reaffirm our attachment to Western Civilization.

In things political, Bernard Lewis captures it well in the February, 1992 *Atlantic*: "Liberal democracy, however far it may have travelled, is in its origins a product of the West. No such system has originated in any other cultural tradition; it remains to be seen whether such a system, transplanted and adapted to another culture, can long survive" (p. 97). In science, in medicine, philosophy and economics, similar valid claims can be made. Thus our lead program will be to accurately interpret and explain Western Civilization (the *education* function in our organizational name), and to defend it as needed in courts of law, in legislatures, and before executive agencies (the *defense* alluded to in our name) and to work for its further improvement and development.

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A subset of this concern is the defense and promotion of the English language, which we see as the carrier of our American culture and as the most important *tie that binds* us into a nation that can communicate without interpreters, and cooperate in attempting to work out our common problems.

Yet another related concern is the declining value placed on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. As is reflected in our membership categories detailed below, we intend to emphasize the importance of newcomers becoming full members of our society, and to oppose permanent, life-long legal resident alien status.

II. Group-based rights. We reaffirm the American credo of judging individuals as individuals, based on merit and not on group membership. Despite the level playing field ideology of the initial stages of affirmative action programs, they have now evolved into, *defacto* schemes for (in Nathan Glazer's term) affirmative discrimination with group-based quotas.

When the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964, we were *prohibited* from taking notice of race or other group characteristics; twenty-five years later, through the alchemy of court decisions, executive agency actions and further legislation, we are now *required* to take these characteristics into account. This is unfair and un-American. We will work to return affirmative action to its original intent of equal opportunity, and if this is not possible, we will work to eliminate it altogether. Tying into the next program area, we specifically reject affirmative action preferences for immigrants — a particularly egregious excess.

III. Reduction of the European-American demographic and cultural majority to minority status. Demography is destiny. Projections by the U.S. Census Bureau show that midway into the next century, the current European-American majority will become a minority. In many areas of the country, this change will come sooner, or is already upon us. This is unacceptable; we decline to bequeath to our children minority status in their own land. The agent of the projected change is high levels of immigration.

Thus immigration must be sharply reduced to historic average levels, or even lower, to compensate for the excesses of recent decades. An immediate moratorium should be declared on all immigration, exempting only spouses and dependent minor children of U.S. citizens. As to refugees, with tens of millions already in that status and the numbers growing daily, whole new approaches need to be studied and developed. The current system cannot deal with the numbers involved for much longer.

MEMBERSHIP

There will be several classes of membership:

I. U.S. Citizens. This class of membership is open to all U.S. citizens, whether native-born or naturalized. It will have the typical spread of dollar categories.

II. Legal Resident Aliens of under five years standing. U.S. law requires a five-year waiting period before newcomers can apply for citizenship. During this *pledge* period, we are glad to welcome these persons to associate membership, in anticipation of their swearing-in as citizens and becoming eligible for full membership.

The dollar categories will be identical to the Citizen category.

III. Legal Resident Aliens of over five years standing are ineligible for membership until they become citizens, as are illegal aliens.

Members will be solicited through the mails and the other usual means of spreading the word.

SYNONYMS

While the full term European-American best expresses the idea, it is a bit long and cumbersome. Acceptable alternatives might include EuroAmerican, Euros or even EA's.

MOTTO

or

Explanatory Subheading

Still to be chosen.

GOVERNANCE

This will be by a self-perpetuating (as opposed to elected by the membership) board, with a President and a Vice-President for each of the three main program areas. An Executive Director would lead the staff, and report to the President and Board.

TAX STATUS

LEADERS will be set up as a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation.

OFFICES

The main office will be in Washington, D.C. Other offices may be set up as the situation warrants.

Attachments

File: **LEADERS**

Second Draft--3/2/93