

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE July 26, 1988

FULL NAME John Yates SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER Unknown  
 (No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

CITY Providence STATE Rhode Island ZIP CODE 02908

DATE OF BIRTH Unknown (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE Unknown (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION Catholic NATIONALITY Unknown

OCCUPATION Unknown

EDUCATION Unknown

WEIGHT 185 HEIGHT 5'9" RACE Caucasian

COLOR OF HAIR Grey COLOR OF EYES Unknown

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_

MARRIED OR SINGLE Married CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ (Number, ages, and names, if possible)

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

<u>UNIT #</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>DATE REGISTERED</u>	<u>DATE RESIGNED</u>
Tr. 71	Providence	RI	Committee Chmn.		1980

SPECIAL RECOGNITION \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPENDED OR DENIED REGISTRATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION AND LIST ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE OR SPECULATION):

Failure to follow acceptable leadership on trip to Florida, thereby endangering the lives of Scouts and leaders under his supervision.

CONFIDENTIAL

JUL 27 1988

F. STARON  
4/14/83-nah

NOJED

AUG 05 '88

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

Signed Vincent W. Basell  
SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council Narragansett 546

August 3, 1988

Mr. Vincent N. Borrelli  
Scout Executive  
Narragansett Council, No 546

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: John Yates

Dear Vince:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

eko

cc: Northeast Region

READY TO FILE  
AUG 08 1988  
ERIN ORILEY

CONF027258

July 18, 1988

Mr. Vincent Borrelli  
Scout Executive  
Narragansett Council, No. 546

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: JOHN A YATES

Dear Vince:

I need a Confidential Record Sheet with personal information concerning Mr. Yates if we are to identify him in the future and refuse registration anywhere it might be attempted. It seems he used some very poor judgment and had a rather strong temper at times when things did not go his way. We, therefore, feel that he would not be the proper person to be registered at this time.

Please send us the sheet for identification purposes and any other material which is available. This will then close this file.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

pam

Enclosure

cc: Northeast Region

READY TO FILE  
JUL 19 1988  
ERIN ORILEY

CONF027259

*J. A. A. E.*

NARRAGANSETT CC

175 Broad Street, Providence, Rhode IS

*It sounds like it could be  
a lot of personality problems.  
Do we really want to put  
either Smith or Lpte on the file  
Scout no longer exists. ~~Smith~~ It  
looks like neither one is registered  
at this time*

Mrs. Glenda Rickabaugh  
Executive Director

Providence, RI 02909

Dear Mrs. Rickabaugh,

*YATES  
ASK FOR - K. SHEET*

Thank you for the opp  
discuss the Federal Hill House's rechartering of Troop 99. We appreciate  
your organization's continued support of the Scouting program for Provi-  
dence boys.

The Boy Scouts of America has granted the Federal Hill House a char-  
ter to operate a Scout Troop for the period of one year. As we discussed,  
your organization's responsibilities are threefold:

1. To provide an adequate meeting place.
2. To secure and approve all adult leadership
3. To provide quality interpretation of a Scouting program.

An immediate concern in our discussion was the leadership adequacy  
of Kevin Smith, the person whom your organization had chosen as Scoutmaster  
for Troop 99. At that time I made you aware of difficulties that arose  
within Troop 71 when Kevin Smith was their Scoutmaster between 1977 and 1979.  
The most pressing of these problems were poor financial record keeping and  
responsibility, and a safety violation in which a Winnebago bus was badly  
overcrowded and then driven straight through to Disneyworld last summer.

Your decision was to proceed with Troop 99 with Kevin Smith as your  
Scoutmaster. At that time you stated that Troop Committee Chairman Joseph  
Kaskiewicz and you would closely watch the progress of the Troop and would  
make certain that Kevin acted within the perimeters of the Boy Scouts of  
America.

I am writing to urge you to monitor the progress of Troop 99 as closely  
as possible. If any difficulties should arise, or if you have any questions  
concerning the Scouting program, please contact me. I will be glad to as-  
sist you in any manner I can so that your organization can provide quality  
Scouting to the Federal Hill neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,

*Steven Whitney*

Steven Whitney  
Providence Scout Executive

SW:sj

Received June 6-80

MAY 3, 1980

to: All parents and scouts of Troop 71

Dear Friends,

In November of 1979, Reverend Charles Maher and Reverend Raymond Luft informed us that the Narragansett Council of the Boy Scouts of America had requested that the church replace us as the leaders of Troop 71 Providence. As you know, this did not immediately happen. After listening to our explanation of the problem that the Council was creating, Father Maher instructed us to iron out our differences with them. Until such time, the troop would not be allowed to meet.

In February of 1980, after conferring with the Northeastern Regional Office of the Boy Scouts in New Brunswick, New Jersey, we informed Father Luft that if the Council wanted to remove us as leaders, they had to charge us with specific violations of the Rules and Regulations. In the Regional Offices report from the Narragansett Council it stated that there were no such charges, that the only reason the leadership was being changed was because the sponsor, Blessed Sacrament Church, wished to do so.

Father Luft said that this was not true, it was never their intention to replace the leadership. The Narragansett Council had threatened to pull the troop charter if they did not receive our resignations. That was the only reason it had been requested. The Narragansett Council was, therefore, in their report to the Northeastern Office, attempting to blame the sponsor for the resignation request. Also, according to the report, there were no charges. Therefore, according to Mr. Ben Love, Regional Executive, we could remain as leaders if the sponsor signed the charter.

A meeting with the patrol officers and other senior leaders was held to plan the program for the resumption of troop meetings. At the same time, a parents meeting was scheduled to inform them of the progress that had been made.

Unfortunately, neither of us could attend this meeting. It was not really important for us to be there, we had discussed the issues before the meeting. It was to get the troop on its feet again, and we were still to be its leaders. This is not what happened at that meeting.

We were informed after the meeting that Father Luft had stated, after being pressed from a couple of parents, that Kevin Smith would probably not be Scoutmaster. It should be noted that to this day neither Father Luft or Maher has had the courtesy or the courage to inform us of this decision.

We struggled for months trying to resolve the problems stemming from the Disney trip so that we could keep this troop alive. We did so only because Father Maher had led us to believe that he would not replace us as the leaders. If we knew that he would, at the last possible moment, change his mind, we would never have offered the boys hope that we would soon be enjoying good scouting. Our concern was for the boys of our troop, it always has been.

Father Luft told us that he was informed of the decision shortly before the start of the parents meeting. Why, however, did he not inform us of this after the meeting. He had not talked to us until just last week when we approached him at the rectory. There is no excuse for the way in which the sponsor handled this situation. They should never have allowed the scouts and parents, and ourselves, to think that we <sup>would</sup> keep the troop once we worked out a possible solution.

It is important to us that you know we never stopped fighting to get the troop together again. We appreciate those of you who stood by us through all of this. We had many good times with our scouts, memories that will live in our hearts and theirs for a lifetime. We are grateful for the opportunity we had to serve them, to teach them, to travel with them. Our troop enjoyed a unique relationship between scouts and leaders, and that is what helped to make all the times we had even more special.

Even though the trip to Disneyworld may have been the cause for these problems, we cannot forget the great times we shared on that voyage. All of you who attended we are sure had a good time, and

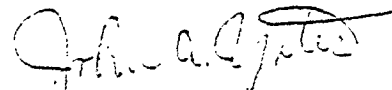
will talk for years to come of the fun and friendship we all shared.

Finally, we hope you continue in scouting. Whether it be in troop 71, if they should start again, or another troop, bring whatever you have learned already to them. We wish you well in your scouting career, and hope you achieve your goals. Who knows, perhaps we will someday be with you once again. Until then good luck and good scouting.

Sincerely,



Kevin M. Smith

  
John A. Yates

Oct 28 1979

Warren Stephenson  
Markney Hill Road  
Coventry, RI 02916

Management Council B.S.A.  
The Scout Council Director

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

In regards to our recent conversation about troop 71 I am writing this letter.

My son [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was invited by the leader of troop 71 to accompany the Boy Scouts to Disney World at a cost of \$125.00 and a \$5.00 donation of food. Warren was invited because a number of boys were needed to make the trip financially feasible.

To the best of my knowledge 27 boys plus 3 adult leaders were to take this trip. The 3 leaders, 2 boys from New York & 2 scouts were all to go as guests of troop 71; of the 27 boys four (4) were non-scouts.

In reference to the two boys from [REDACTED] their mother [REDACTED] owns the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] she has had troop 71 as her guests at least twice and was responsible for the advanced reservations to and from Florida.

The boys left [REDACTED] Church 8:AM Friday 8/3/79 on troop 71's bus. There was



mechanical trouble with the bus at the Rhode  
Island - Conn. line. They returned to Cranston  
to have the bus checked by the people  
who sold it to them. They started out again  
only to break down on Rt 95 in Stonington,  
Conn. The bus had to be towed with all  
aboard to the dealer at approximately time

11.22.71: 12:30 P.M.

When the leaders were told the engine  
was blown due to lack of oil, they tried  
to acquire other means of transportation but  
could not because of the cost.

Special permission was granted to  
camp at Camp Island (a well kept preserve).  
The Conn. police were told the troop would  
stay the night.

My sister-in-law received a call about  
7:30 P.M. saying the bus had broken down in  
Stonington, Conn. and the trip was cancelled.  
She probably went to Stonington to find they  
did not stay at [redacted] nor had they  
notified the police or Miss Gates of their where-  
abouts.

The trouble started Saturday Aug 27.  
Warren informed us the leader and the two  
boys from N.Y. were going to Disney World - 13

anyway on Saturday. I called [redacted] and asked if this was the case and found it to be true. [redacted] the trip was cancelled, I asked what arrangements were being made to return the boys money? The reply I would have to talk to Vera Smith.

Late that morning [redacted] called from [redacted] house where he, John, and [redacted] were. I was asked at that time if I would take some boys in my van to New York to meet [redacted]. She was leading the trip for Winnipeg. I asked if all the boys were going? The reply was; no only the ones we can fit. Wanda was again invited to take the trip. I said I did not think he should be invited and others left because I was making the most noise. We refused to let him go anyway, due to the irresponsibility shown by the leader on Friday.

While talking to John and [redacted] I offered my van and myself at no charge to the trip to take the remaining boys to Disney World so all could go. I suggested they call everybody to see how many were going and call me back. [redacted] called back later saying Vera did not need me to drive he had made other

arrangements.

I asked [redacted] if he was calling a meeting of the parents and boys to return their money. The answer was I will mail you a check for \$65.00. I told him that that amount was not fair after [redacted] and many other boys had worked all summer, giving up other trips and events to go to Disney World. I then demanded he not leave until this matter was settled or I would come over and bust his head! The \$65.00 was not at all satisfactory to me.

[redacted] replied, I was the only parent who thought it unfair because they had spent money on preparations (Bus, food, & paper goods).

Of the three expenses I found this:

- #1 Bus: The leader ran a raffle (in the name of Friends of Troop 71) to purchase the new bus, but the scouts did not sell enough of these Equus Basket raffle tickets. So the money for the bus had to come from advanced payments from the Scouts Disney World trip money. The troops treasury was very low.
- #2 Food: Almost all food was donated by the parents for an excess of \$5.00. The only food

\* 5

height by the bodies were milk, food, etc.,  
I saw through-out the trip.

### #3. Paper Goods?

[redacted] I still did not say his story.  
[redacted] said if I could take the trip to Glade  
they would pay for the camp site since they  
had a deposit on them anyway. That way  
Marion would get all his money back. After  
a few more exchanges of words I refused to  
discuss this matter any further with [redacted] and  
told him to have whatever amount he thought  
was fair at [redacted] house in Providence, for  
I would need the money if we planned to go.  
I demanded to speak to John and  
he repeated [redacted] story of preparation.  
experience.

My wife and I spent the rest of Saturday  
afternoon calling dealers trying to rent camping  
equipment. When we called [redacted]  
Rentals they asked if we were the party  
who called earlier? As they had already heard  
the story of the bus breakdown. Evidently  
the same offer was made to other bus parents  
whose boys were being left.

All camping equipment was rented so we were forced to buy a new tent.

When we arrived at [REDACTED] 2/6/79 at 11 P.M. the scouts were already there. We found out later by talking to John they had driven non-stop from N.Y. to Florida with approximately 19 people in on Winnabago.

Three of the older boys had to pay their own bus and cab fare to Florida and back home. (Besides paying \$125.00 for the trip) because they had no room in the Winnabago.

Kevin's hostility toward us was quite evident when we asked for information regarding the camp site. Unbecoming that of a Scout Master. John showed us the site and [REDACTED] gave us the additional information we needed they were both very friendly through-out our stay in Disney World. We had no further contact with Kevin during or after the trip.

About three weeks later we found out that some boys were paid \$100.00 refund and others to this date have not been paid at all.

47

Our decision to bring this matter before you was not an easy one. We felt at that time, there were too few people willing to volunteer themselves for scouting and in no way did we want to be instrumental in breaking up Troop 71 (for the sake of the boys).

However the high ideals and standards of scouting which I was taught while I was a scout are not being practiced by some of the leaders of Troop 71. I feel, <sup>that</sup> this is more of a [redacted] to the scouts than bringing this matter into the open and getting this scout's honorable, responsible leadership.

Yours truly,  
[redacted]



NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL 548 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

175 Broad Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

401-351-2700

January 2, 1980

Mr. Ben H. Love, Regional Director  
Northeast Region, Boy Scouts of America  
[REDACTED]  
Dayton, New Jersey 08810

Good morning Ben:

Attached to my letter are the documents that will give you the background on the Troop 71 Providence incident. You will see in my memo to Joe DeStefano, Providence District Chairman, that the matter was reviewed by the Council Activities Committee.

Father Edward Kelly, a member of the Activities Committee, met with the Associate Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church to review the details of the trip and point out to the church leadership that they are responsible for the troop and its activities and that they are also responsible for the selection of the leadership of the troop.

To this date, the council has not taken a specific action. If necessary, I'm sure the Activities Committee would be willing and able to handle any additional steps in the solution of the Troop 71 problem.

I personally feel that the leaders of the troop made major deviations from their approved Tour Permit. I believe those decisions were judgments that put the reputation of Scouting in jeopardy. Thank God that no additional problems occurred on the trip.

If you need any additional information please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Vincent N. Borrelli  
Scout Executive

VNB:jw

CONF027271

The following are the responses of Scoutmaster Kevin Smith of Troop 71 Providence. They are in response to questions by [REDACTED] concerning a letter written September 13th by [REDACTED]. She is a parent of two Scouts in Troop 71. The letter protests the [REDACTED] sons and a friend during the troop's August trip to Disneyworld. The conversation with Kevin took place over the phone on September 24th.

1. [REDACTED] claims that you and Mr. Yates told her on 8/3/79 that you would try to get other transportation and "maybe by Monday they would know."  
[REDACTED] We told everyone to stay packed and be ready to leave on a moment's notice. We said that Monday would be our last possible day to leave because Disneyworld would not hold the campsite much after that.
2. [REDACTED]: Why did you leave on Saturday, August 4th?  
[REDACTED] We called friends from Combing, New York. They own a campground there and had often been very good to our troop. We had camped there several times. They have two sons whom we were taking on our trip with us as a thank you for all their past help. When we told them that the trip was probably off, they said maybe not, and that they'd call us back. They called Saturday morning to say that the troop could use their large motorhome for the trip. Since it was an eight hour drive from Providence to Combing, they told us that we should meet them halfway. This would also save travel time to Florida. These friends had to leave immediately so that they could get back to their campground before the late afternoon influx of campers. Because of this, we did not have much time to round up all our Scouts. We called everyone we could reach and told them we were leaving immediately. We then talked to Father Luft (or S.C.) to advise him on what we were doing. We thought that he might get calls from parents of Scouts we couldn't reach, but he received none.
3. [REDACTED] Was it true that you didn't want to take all the Scouts with you, since your new transportation was smaller than your original bus, and therefore you only made a half-hearted effort to call the boys?  
[REDACTED] No, if that were true I wouldn't have tried to call everyone. Also, we had told all the boys to be ready to leave on a moment's notice. [REDACTED] Scouts probably should have called us to check on our progress before they left for Rocky Point. Also, we easily fit 20 people on board.
4. [REDACTED] Why did you refund [REDACTED] only \$200 instead of the \$250 that she paid?  
[REDACTED] It was always our intent to refund the total \$125/boy. However, since it cost us over \$200 to have the bus towed from Stonington, CT, and more for what repairs had been done, we weren't financially able at that time to refund more than \$100/boy. When I told [REDACTED] that I was coming over to drop off the check, she hung up on me before I could tell her it would be only for \$200. We are now in the process of refunding the remaining \$50 to her.
5. [REDACTED] Why were you so late in returning the money to her?  
[REDACTED] When we returned from Florida she was away on vacation for a couple weeks. I didn't hear from her until September, and I had been busy and hadn't contacted her.
6. [REDACTED] When you switched vehicles, why didn't you notify our office concerning a change in your National Tour Permit?



██████████ We had the original National Tour Permit with us on the trip. When we had to make the last second change in vehicles, it never occurred to me that the tour permit should be changed. We did make sure that the new vehicle was insured, and we carried those insurance forms with us. Also, we would not have been able to notify you for a change in tour permits on a Saturday.

7. Other comments by ██████████

- a. ██████████ called ██████████ soon after the troop arrived in Florida and really blasted her about the mix-up. John Yates then offered to pay the one-way bus transportation for the two boys out of his own pocket (\$110,) but the other leaders and I felt that it wouldn't have been a good idea, and we overruled him.."
- b. "██████████ boys were good Scouts and apparently still plan to be in Troop 71 this fall."
- c. "We'll never go on a trip like that again."

S. Fisher

Aug 2 - 5.

125 cash

Seebard - Son was solicited to

Go to Disney World by [REDACTED]  
at Champaign. Paid 125. to

Go. When Bus broke down  
his son was left behind. Has

NOT received a refund to Oct 22, 1979



NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL 546 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

175 Broad Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

401-851-8700

January 23, 1980

Mr. John Sterrett

[REDACTED]  
Farmington, Connecticut 06032

Dear John:

I got your memo of January 15th regarding a meeting with John Yates. You indicate in your note that Yates claims I have been unwilling to meet with him. He has never called for an appointment.

If he did call for an appointment, I would refuse to meet with him until he pays \$125 to two people that I know of that he still owes for fees paid to him by kids that he left behind on his Disneyworld trip.

I sent a great deal of background information to Ben regarding John Yates and company; you probably have it by now. I believe Mr. Yates has more problems than I can cope with here.

Very truly yours,

Vincent N. Sorrelli  
Scout Executive

VNB:jw

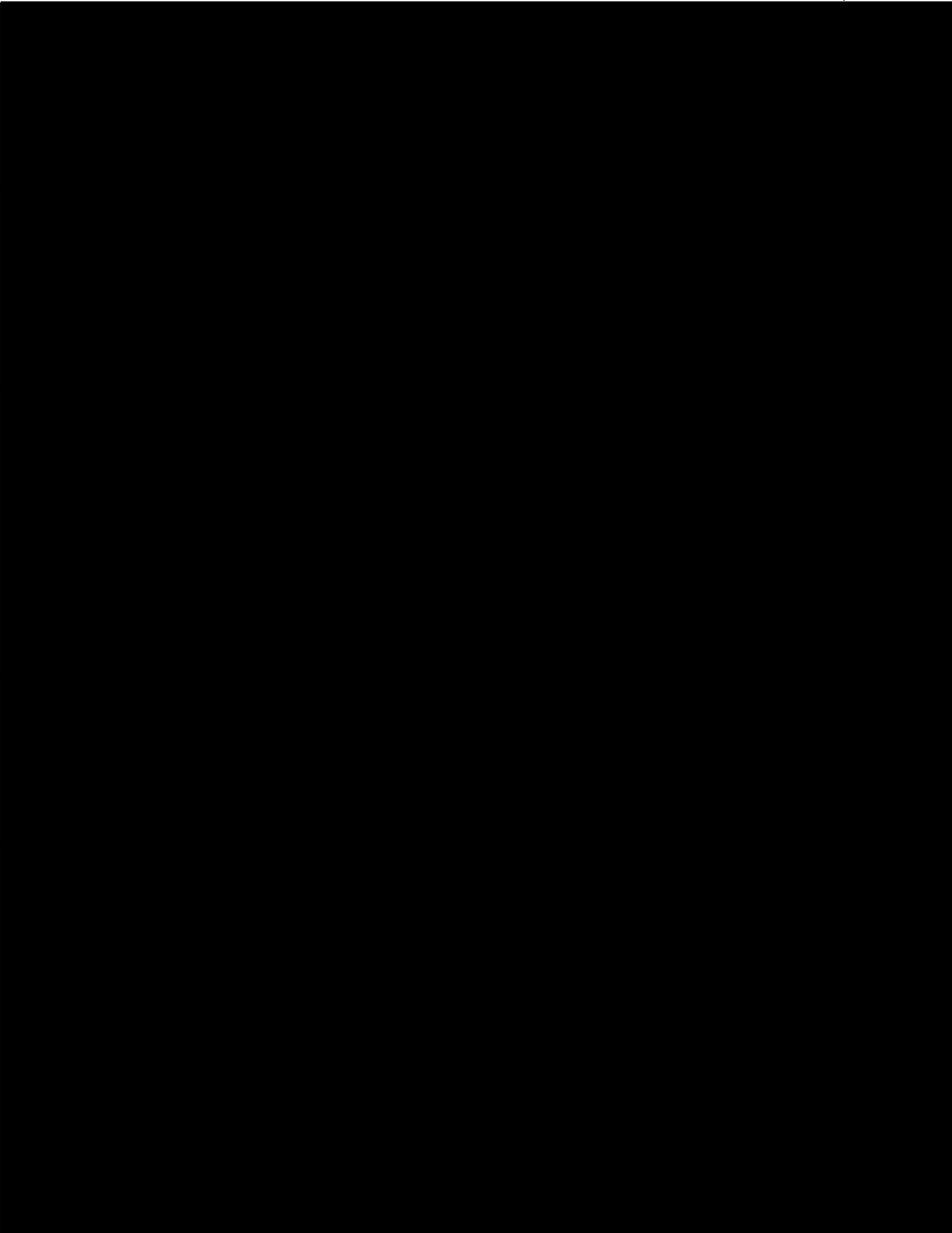
cc: Robert E. Dorr

CONF027275

Dear



Bob



ed  
by  
were  
to  
197  
with  
of  
ended  
(away)  
would  
sent  
to  
have  
out

NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL 336 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

175 Broad Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

401-351-8700

May 7, 1980

Mr. John A. Yates

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Yates:

The Council, in its relations with units, does not deal directly with the troop committee or the Scoutmaster. It deals directly with the head of the sponsoring institution. In the Boy Scouts of America, the sponsoring institution is chartered to operate the Scouting program for one year. The sponsor is responsible for the adult leadership, providing a meeting facility, and a quality interpretation of the program of the Boy Scouts of America.

Narragansett Council, in our assigned territory, is responsible to provide help in organization, training for adults, and to uphold the standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The upholding of standards and the creation of local procedures is done by a majority vote of volunteers on Council committees.

With these facts in mind, I must inform you that the Council has not taken any action regarding Troop 71 Providence or specifically with Kevin Smith or John Yates. If members of the former sponsor, Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, would like to review the circumstances regarding Troop 71, the Council would be happy to consider any request from Rev. Charles Maher or his representative.

It is our understanding that Troop 71 is being now reorganized and a new Scoutmaster has been selected. All equipment and property purchased by the former Troop is the property of Blessed Sacrament Church and if not in the church's possession now, said property should be turned over to the church to allow the Troop to continue in behalf of boys.

Very truly yours,

Stanley F. Turco  
Council President

SFT:jw

CONF027277

October 19, 1979

Mr. Vincent N. Borrelli  
Council Executive  
Narragansett Council

██████████  
Providence R.I. 02903

Sir,

A boy from Troop 71 Providence entered my store last June. He was selling adds for a book his troop was getting together. The scout explained to me he was raising money to go to camp. I purchase a ten dollar add. I ve seen the boy many of times and asked him for the book. He told me that the troop was not going to get the book made up. I have donated money to scout groups on many occasions, but something like this really turns me off to scouting. It makes me think, what are they teaching the boys. I did expect to see my add.

Thank you for your time,

Mr. OBrien

CONF027278

SEE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS BELOW

RECORD OF NATIONAL TOUR PERMIT

TOUR PERMIT NO. HER-I-131-79

FOR TOURS 250 MILES OR MORE AND TOURS OUTSIDE THE U.S.A

THIS IS TO CERTIFY

Date issued July 18, 1979

that permission is granted to:

Tour leader Kevin M. Smith

(Type of unit) Troop No. 71 Council Rhode Island

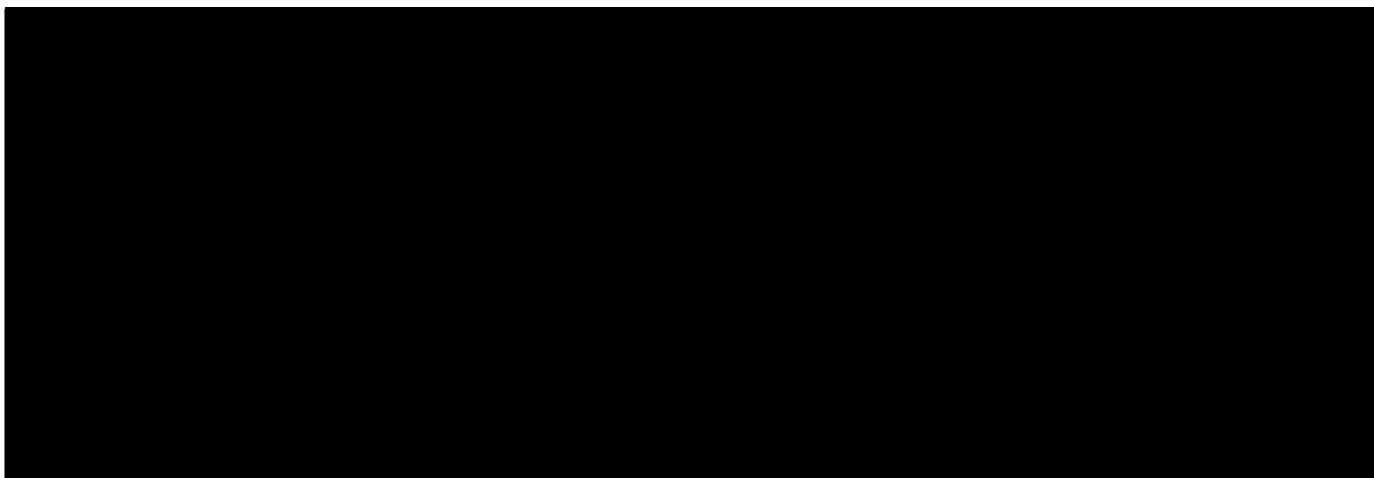
Council address Providence, RI

For trip from Providence, RI to Orlando, Florida

Dates August 3 to August 13 19 79

IT IS ESSENTIAL that this copy of the National Tour Permit and attached itinerary be kept on file in the local council office.

yes



change  
by the

4/15	JACKSONVILLE, FL	JACKSONVILLE	45	JACKSONVILLE KOA	✓
4/16	JACKSONVILLE, FL	FAYETTEVILLE	300	KOA - FAYETTEVILLE	✓
4/17	FAYETTEVILLE, NC	PEERSONVILLE MD	200	KOA - PEERSONVILLE	✓
4/17	PEERSONVILLE, MD	PROV. RI	540	—	

Please see me about  
this. WOB

Sept 13, 1979  
Thursday

Dear Mr Borrelli;

I am writing to complain  
about the actions of the Scout  
Master and Committee Head, Kevin  
Smith & John Yates of Troop 71-  
Blessed Sacrament, Providence.

On August 3rd, two of my  
sons, who are troop members,  
left on the troop bus for a  
trip to Disneyland in Florida. They  
left from Blessed Sacrament  
Church at about 5 A.M.

At 6:30 that night, I received  
a call from one of the Scouts mothers  
that we were to pick the  
boys up in Stonington, Conn, as  
the bus had broken down and  
could not be repaired. My family  
and I, went to get them. I  
brought home 3 other Scouts.

When we left Conn, Kevin &  
my Yates said they would try  
to work something out and maybe  
by Monday they would know.



We left one of the boys at his house and he was at our house 15 minutes later. His neighbors told him that his family had left for the Caye for the week. We said he could stay at our house.

When I received the phone call to go and get the boys, my oldest son and myself were just leaving for New Hampshire to camp. We decided to leave when we get back from Conn, and my 12 year old son who was one of the scouts came with us.

My 15 year old son decided to stay home with my daughter. The scout, whose name is [REDACTED] stayed also.

The boys did question our leaving but I told them what had been told to me about Monday and I assured them that if something did come up. I was sure they would not leave without all the scouts.

Saturday Morning, my son [REDACTED] & his friend [REDACTED] left for Rocky Point

At about 11 o'clock in the morning Kevin Smith called about 11:30 and asked my daughter if the boys were around. She told him, he said "OK" and said good-bye. She said he never told her why he wanted them and if he had, she would have been able to get the two at Rocky Point and I could have been contacted at the campground and been home in two hours. My daughter is 18, very responsible and she would have been able to handle the situation.

As it turned out, Mr. Smith & Mr. Yates left for Florida Saturday. They were able to secure transportation but it would not accommodate all the boys, so they made a half-hearted attempt to call and left. And what upsets me is the fact that non-scouts went before scouts.

Scouts like my two boys who planned for this trip for a whole year, who went on all the required camp-outs, and the week

to yawgoy and rode a 50 mile  
hike. They were left behind  
and boys, whose only qualification  
was that they had the \$/25.-  
went.

The amount of money for the trip was  
\$/25 per scout plus \$5.00 per family  
in food. The night before they  
left I gave them \$250.-.

Mr Smith & Mr Yates returned the  
week of August 13, but I don't know  
the exact date. My family and  
myself were on vacation and we  
came home the 25th. I expected them,  
Kevin or Mr Yates, to contact me immediately  
and return my money.

I did not hear from either of  
them and finally I called both  
their homes and left messages  
for them to call me. I received  
no response. I called Kevin's home  
again and asked the person that answered  
to please have Kevin leave the money  
owed at my home. Still no  
response.

I called our priest Father Supt and asked him if he would please call Kevin and ask him to return my money. It was August 31, and I explained that I could desperately use the money for school clothes. Again, I received no response.

Finally, this past Tuesday Sept 11, I called Kevin's home, he answered and said he would deliver a check the next day Wed. Sept 12. He said he had had my check plus the other families checks but, in his words, "Was just too busy to get around to deliver them", My reply was "Oh, Really" and I hung up on him.

The check was at my home when I came home from work but Mr. Smith & Mr. Yates were still playing [redacted]. The amount of the check was for \$500 - not the \$250. owed and it was post-dated for the 14th.

I have had about all of the cute little tricks that these two want to play.

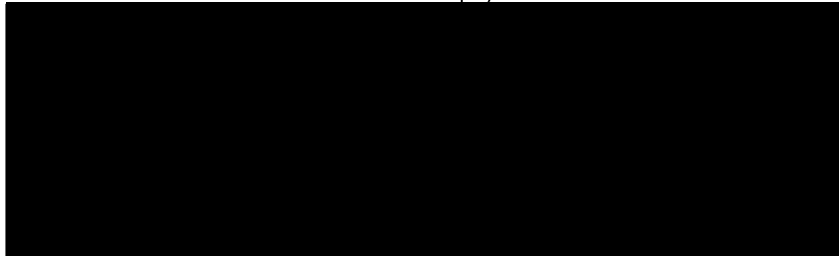
They have both acted in an un Scout like manner from the day they left for their vacation, leaving Scouts behind, not returning the money owed immediately and post-dating checks. These are not things one expects from Scout leaders.

I feel they owe the Scouts they left behind an apology for the shabby way they were treated.

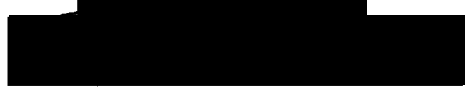
I'm sorry this had to be so long but I could not shorten it and tell the story the way it should be told.

Thank you for time.

Sincerely,



POV. RD 02908



NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

TO: Joe DeStefano  
Providence District Chairman

October 23, 1979

Dear Joe:

I want you to be aware of an action on the part of Troop 71 Providence that has prompted the Council Activities Committee to review the current procedure for issuing tour permits to Troop 71 Providence.

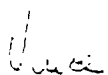
In early August, Troop 71 planned a trip to Disneyworld. They have their own troop bus. As I understand it, the bus is registered in the name of John Yates, former Scoutmaster, currently chairman of the troop committee. The current Scoutmaster, Kevin Smith, is an Eagle Scout from Troop 71 and a very close associate of John Yates. The trip had been planned for some time and evidently there were insufficient members of the troop to fill the bus. Therefore, the members of the troop and leaders solicited people, other than Scouts, to take the trip. One of these is the son of [REDACTED] one the son of [REDACTED], two members were grandsons of John Yates and two boys were sons of people who own a KOA campground in the state of New York.

The trip left Rhode Island early in the day of August 2. The bus got as far as Stonington, Connecticut, where it broke down. To make a long story short, the bus was not repairable and parents of the troop were called to come and get their children. The trip returned late in the day of Thursday, August 2. During the day of Friday, August 3, efforts were made to re-establish the trip. The troop was able to borrow a Winnebago camper from the parents of the campground owners in New York. During the morning of Saturday, the trip was rescheduled, minus approximately 8 of the original paid members. Seventeen boys and adults were transported non stop from New York to Disneyworld in a Winnebago.

Several things have happened since that point. First, after the trip returned I was visited by 3 parents. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were alarmed at the conduct of the activity and the fact that they had not yet been reimbursed for the trip that their sons were to have taken but were left back. I have also had a visit today from [REDACTED] who again told me that he had not been reimbursed for his son's expenses, who was also left back. Complicating the issue is the very difficult matter of the troop leaders violating the national tour standards of exceeding 400 miles per day in travel and also in substituting a bus for a 6 passenger Winnebago camper to be used as transportation for the event.

I cannot presume to forecast what the Activities Committee may decide, however, pending their decision, I will make my own decision on future arrangements that the council may have with the current leadership of Troop 71.

Very truly yours,

  
Vincent N. Borrelli  
Scout Executive

VNB:jw  
cc: Steve Whitney

CONF027286



# NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL 546 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

175 Broad Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

401-351-8700

## STATEMENT FROM CHARLES BLACKMAR

This statement was taken by Stuart M. Meade, Exploring Director, from [REDACTED] member of Explorer Post 327 Warwick.

- On Sunday afternoon, May 16, 1976, [REDACTED] was stationed at Gate 5 at Lincoln Downs, the site of "Youth Expo '76". [REDACTED] was assigned that position by Mr. Everett Brunckow, Support Service Chairman of Youth Expo. Mr. Brunckow's instructions to [REDACTED] was that no one was to enter or leave by Gate 5 so that no one would cross the race track.

In the first 45 minutes that [REDACTED] was on duty, several people tried to enter by that gate. These people were refused admittance by [REDACTED] in a courteous manner.

Mr. John Yates then approached the gate to obtain admission and was stopped by [REDACTED]. Mr. Yates told [REDACTED] that "he had to go through". Mr. Yates stated to [REDACTED] "I'm one of the bosses." His explanation to [REDACTED] included the need for his Troop's pioneering project needing vaseline. [REDACTED] stated that Mr. Yates spoke in a very harsh voice.

[REDACTED] stated that "I held the gate closed against his pulling". "When he continued to pull the gate, I dropped the chain around the gate to hold it in place".

[REDACTED] continued, "He shoved me and reached for the gate. When I blocked his way, he shoved me again and opened the gate".

At this point, several members of Mr. Yate's Troop grabbed [REDACTED], struck him in the face, and pushed him down in the dirt and gravel.

[REDACTED] continues, "Then he walked through the gate with the others because I had dirt and gravel in my face and eyes and could not stop them".


[REDACTED] then went to Mr. Brunckow and reported the incident to him. [REDACTED] did not know what happened after that.-

[REDACTED]  
(Statement taken December 15, 1976)

*Stuart M. Meade*

CONF027287

Boy Scouts of America 546 NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL

Yates file  


175 BROAD STREET PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903 TEL. 351-3725

February 77

Mr. John A. Yates  
Scoutmaster Troop 71

Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Dear Mr. Yates,

We have received the Charter for Troop 71, Blessed Sacrament Church, in Providence and have re-registered the Unit with the following qualifications:

- 1) The policies and procedures for fund-raising by Scout units must be adhered to. Any and all finance projects related to the unit and conducted by the Troop or any related or unrelated organizations or individuals must have prior approval using the standard Unit Money Earning Application.
- 2) That any trip in or out of the Council territory be approved in advance on Local or National Tour Permit and that all vehicles being used to transport Scouts carry at least the minimum recommended insurance (\$50,000/\$100,000 auto or station wagon; \$100,000/\$300,000 bus).
- 3) That the policies, procedures or instructions for operation of a Scout unit, District or Council events must be followed by the leadership of Troop 71.

We ask your cooperation as Scoutmaster of Troop 71 Providence in instructing your Scout leaders in our position as outlined above. We wish for nothing more than the continuance of a good Scouting program for boys.

Should there be infractions of the rules as stated, the Council will take whatever action deemed appropriate, which could include the revocation of the Charter.

Sincerely,

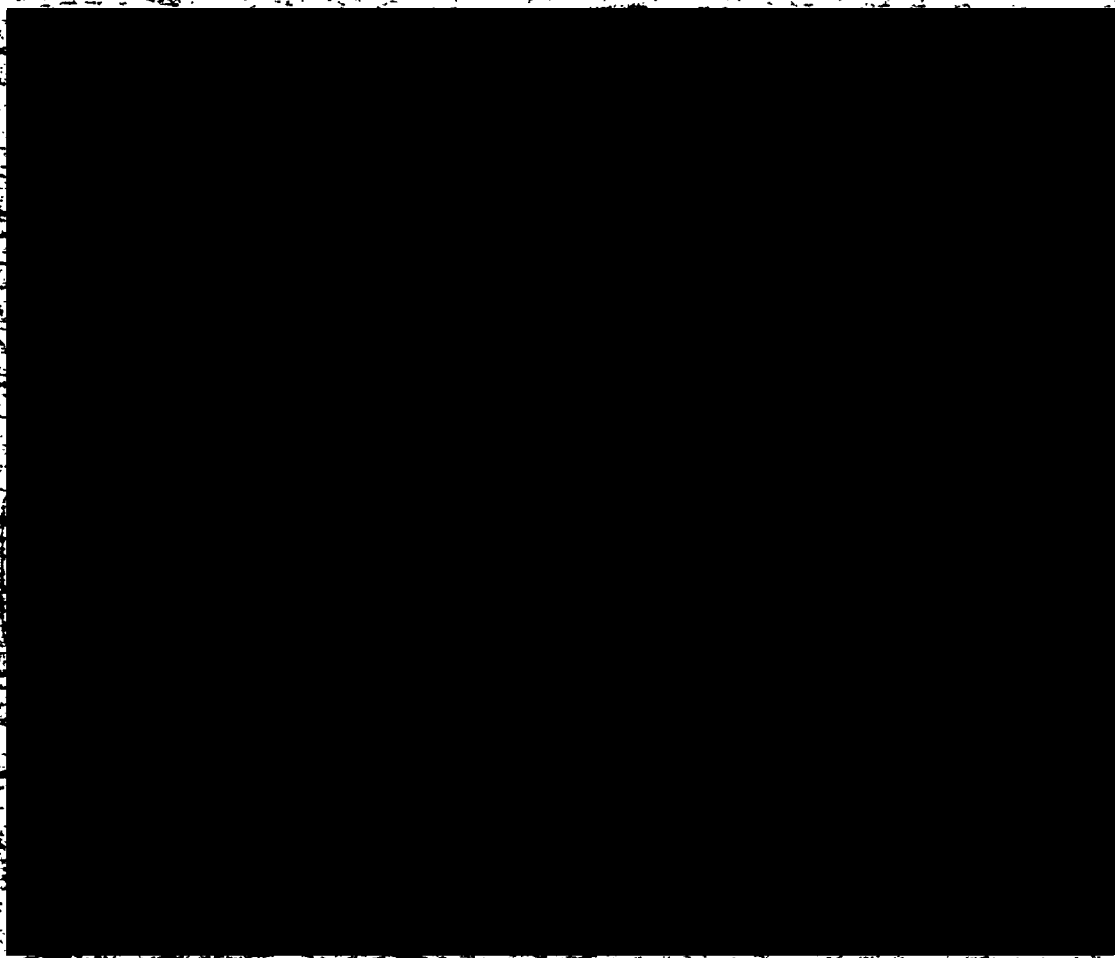
George B. Moorbach  
Council President





Boy Scouts of America NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL

125 BRADDOCK STREET PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903 401-351-8700



That the policies, procedures or instructions for operation of a Scout unit, District or Council events must be followed by the leadership of Troop 71.

We ask your cooperation as head of the sponsoring institution, Blessed Sacrament Church, in instructing your Scout leaders in our position as outlined above. We wish for nothing more than the continuance of a good Scouting program for boys.

Should there be infractions of the rules as stated, the Council will take whatever action deemed appropriate, which could include the revocation of the Charter.

Sincerely,

George B. Woodruff  
Council President

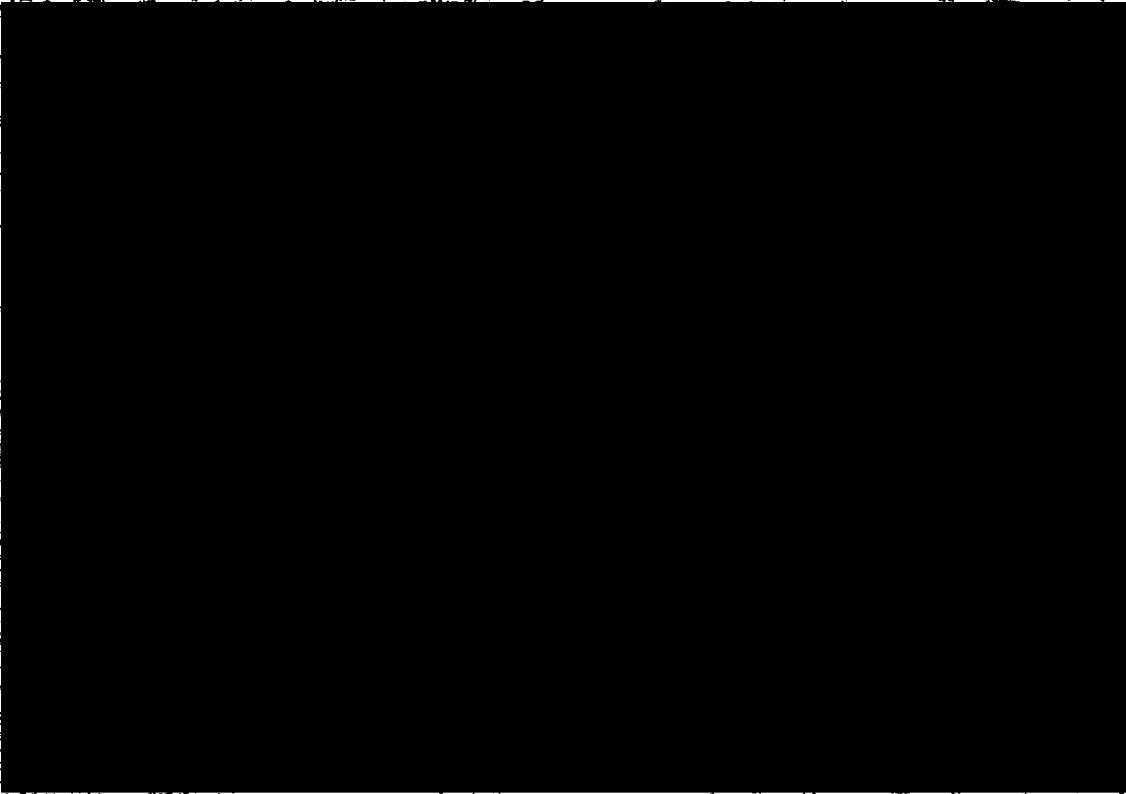


Boy Scouts of America 546 NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL

175 BROAD STREET PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903 401-351-8700



February 77



in

3) That the policies, procedures or instructions for operation of a Scout unit, District or Council events must be followed by the leadership of Troop 71.

We ask your cooperation as Troop Committee Chairman, Troop 71, in instructing your Scout leaders in our position as outlined above. We wish for nothing more than the continuance of a good Scouting program for boys.

Should there be infractions of the rules as stated, the Council will take whatever action deemed appropriate, which could include the revocation of the Charter.

Sincerely,

George B. Roorbach  
Council President

GBR/



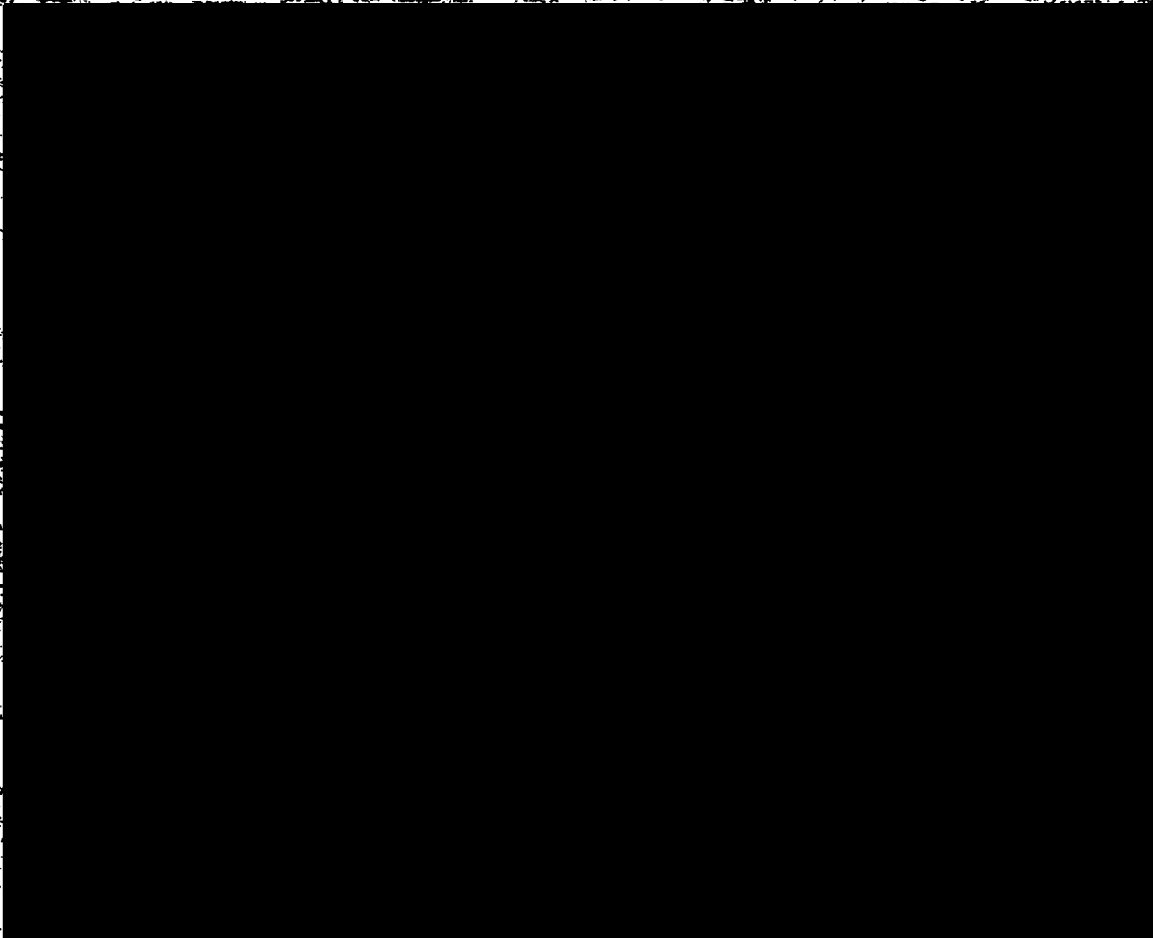
Y

Boy Scouts of America 546 NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL

175 BRAD STREET PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903 401-351-9700



February 77



H

Y

We ask your cooperation as President of the Parish Council of Blessed Sacrament Church in instructing your Scout leaders in our position as outlined above. We wish for nothing more than the continuance of a good Scouting program for boys.

Should there be infractions of the rules as stated, the Council will take whatever action deemed appropriate, which could include the revocation of the Charter.

Sincerely,

George S. Roodbach  
Council President

GB/77



11 Rangaley Avenue  
Providence, R. I. 02908  
December 8, 1976

Boy Scouts of America  
[REDACTED]  
Providence, Rhode Island

To Whom It May Concern:

Does the Narragansett Council of The Boy Scouts of America have capable leadership? It would seem from actions and events recently taken on Blessed Sacrament Troop 71 Scoutmaster, Mr. John Yates, that the Narragansett Council should be revamped.

To refuse to undertake and resolve differences and to judge a person solely on the word of one explorer, when witnesses to the contrary consisted of a scoutmaster, three assistant scoutmasters, and numerous boy scouts is inhuman, and also shows lack of trustworthyness, a scout trait. Even a criminal has his day in court.

It would appear that a personal vendetta exists against Mr. John Yates, from an official or officials at the Narragansett Council. The question which should be answered is not whether Mr. John Yates is a capable scoutmaster but whether the Narragansett Council has qualified personnel.

Mr. John Yates has dedicated his life to scouting. Over a period of fourteen years, serving in many capacities, the last four as scoutmaster of Blessed Sacrament Troop 71, Mr. John Yates has earned the respect and admiration of every parent who had or has a son in scouting.

As parents of Blessed Sacrament Troop 71, we recommend and support Mr. John Yates as scoutmaster of our boys and request as concerned parents that he be acknowledged as scoutmaster and any differences be resolved with fairness as quickly as possible.

It would be a great injustice if this letter is left unanswered. Enclosed are signatures of the parents of Blessed Sacrament Troop 71 in support of Mr. Yates.

Sincerely,

*John S. McGuinness*

John S. McGuinness  
Chairman, Troop 71

JSM/lmr  
cc: Executive Board  
Scout Executive  
Providence District Executive  
Mr. John Yates  
Mr. Kevin Smith

Enclosure

- Mr. John E. McGuinness
- Mrs. Carolyn J. Shea
- Eileen Singleton
- Carmel Cassinara
- Thomas J. Hayes
- Mary Anne White
- Mrs. Mary E. White
- Mrs. Jo Ann Napolitano
- Mrs. Susan H. Thurman
- Mrs. Sue Foster
- Gloria Carlson
- Mrs. Thomas J. Beck
- M. Lawrence
- M. Kadden
- Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Mambro
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Derocq
- Mrs. Fran Kelly
- Mrs. W. Grady Pascoe
- Mrs. Susan J. Syon
- Mrs. Arthur Jones
- Margaret C. Laps
- Mary Siatkowski
- Arthur M. Zanillo
- Mr. Anthony Biavo
- Mrs. Josephine Biavo
- Mr. John Smith
- Mrs. Helen Muscare
- Mrs. Mary Ann Monahan

Statement regarding incident between John Yates and Charles Blackmar:

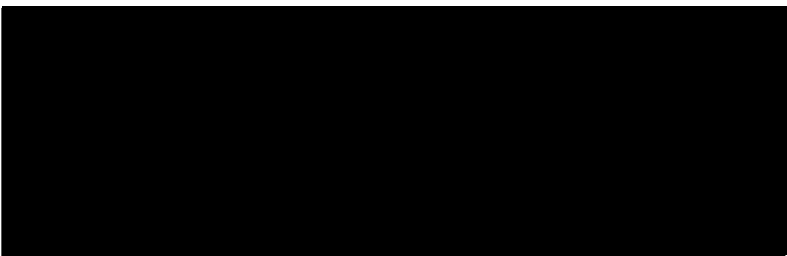
On May 16, 1976, on or about 3:30 PM, Chairman of the Activities Committee, [REDACTED] came to the Youth Expo office at Lincoln Downs to report that one of the Law Enforcement Explorers, [REDACTED] had been physically abused by an adult Scouter. Mr. Brunnckow was in charge of the security and parking group made up of Law Enforcement Explorers.

He brought [REDACTED] along with him. The boy, around 15-16 years of age, slight in build, was dressed in a darkblue uniform (resembling that worn by a police officer.) The uniform was covered with dust and dirt. [REDACTED] had apparently been crying and it took him 15-20 minutes to contain himself and stop sobbing.

Once he settled down, I asked him what had happened. He indicated that his post was the gate towards the south end of the race track. His instructions were to let no one through that gate. All people entering the track had to enter through the ticket gates. He said that this big, white-haired guy was inside the grounds and proceeded across the track, approaching the gate. He informed him that he'd have to go around, and the guy pushed his way through. He immediately informed Mr. Brunnckow of the problem. As Mr Brunnckow was approaching, this same person approached the gate again from outside. He again informed him that could not pass through this gate. He grabbed ahold of the chain around the gate so he couldn't push through. "He pushed me down, but I still kept a tight hold on the chain, and held on as he attempted to push me away from the gate". "Then, one of the Scouts that was with him jumped me while I was on the ground and just as he started to hit me, some other guy told him to stop it and get off me". The white haired guy was identified as John Yates, Scoutmaster of Troop 71, Providence. The Scout who jumped the Explorer was identified as [REDACTED].

I then proceeded to the location where Troop 71 was set up for the show and asked John Yates to come up to the office. He said nothing, and proceeded immediately to the office. Vince Borrelli then talked with John.

When Vince was talking with John, three adult leaders from the troop; Kevin Smith, [REDACTED] and a third who's name escapes me, came to the Youth Expo Office to defend John saying that "the kid should never have tried to stop him". "He should have known from John's size that he shouldn't have tried to stop him". They also expressed a concern about what would become of John. I told them that it wasn't for me to decide.



BLESSED SACRAMENT RECTORY

237 REGENT AVENUE  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908

Handwritten notes: "11/9/76" in a circle, "Wrote & dictated" and "LMB" with a line underneath.

November 9, 1976

Mr. Vincent N. Borrelli  
Boy Scouts of America

[REDACTED]  
Providence, R.I. 02903

Dear Mr. Borrelli,

I write to you as President of the Blessed Sacrament Parish Council. It has been requested from our Pastor, Father John Condon and our Parish Council that I ask you to furnish me with rules in regards to fund-raising by the Boy Scouts (raffles, dances cake sales etc).

Also, it has been requested that we know the role and/or laws of the Boy Scouts in regards to working with the Parish Council. In other words, are your Boy Scouts set up to be governed by rules of a Parish Council or Pastor?

Another point we wish to clarify, Has a scout leader or Scoutmaster have the authority to pull a scout troop out of a Parish on their sayso, once we approve the charter?

I thank you for your attention and cooperation in this matter. Please send this information to my home address:

Mr. James A. Colson

[REDACTED]  
Providence, R.I. 02908

Once again, Thanks.

Sincerely,

*James A. Colson*  
James A. Colson  
President-Parish Council

Vince:

Comments regarding prior incidents with John Yates:

Three years ago, John's troop camp to summer camp on a Sunday evening. That evening, one of John's boy leaders heard some talking from one of the tents later in the night. He went over to the tent to find out what was going on, and silently stayed outside the tent for awhile to "make sure he knew what they were doing". He then ~~went~~ went and got John, who also stayed outside the tent to make sure what was going on. They had found three boys engaged in some sex play.

They immediately packed the kids up, took them home and literally left them on their doorsteps, explaining to two parents ( fathers) what had ~~happened~~ happened, and to the third nothing, because the father wasn't home. When John did reach the father, and as was true with the other fathers, he left them with the impression that they were sent home because they were homosexuals. The one father who wasn't home, called me the next day in a rage. At that time, I had not been informed by John that he had brought these boys home. He continued to call for the next six months trying to work out in his own mind whether or not his son was a homosexual as was indicated by Yates.

The handling of this situation was extremely poor. It showed a total lack of mature judgement and leadership. I'm sure it has left a mark on these boys lives that they'll never be able to erase,

It acting the way he did, John violated one of our regulations that we tell all Scoutmasters, every year, at the Scoutmasters' Steakroast, the week before they come into camp. No child may be removed from the camp property during summer camp without the signature of the Scoutmaster, Camp Director, Health Lodge ( if sick), and Reservation Director. John knows our feelings on this matter, but as always acted irrationally. His reasoning at the time, was: " It was Sunday night, and I didn't think our actual stay at Yawgoog started until Monday morning, so I didn't feel it was necessary to tell anyone."

Last fall, John and his troop went to Aquapaug. During their stay, they managed to cut down some live trees ( 6), removed the limbs from others, hassled the ~~the~~, then denied that they had done anything.

When they arrived on Friday night, Roscoe met with the leaders and instructed them on the regs of the camp. is don't cut live trees, stay off the bank in front of Mowry Tavern ( serious erosion problem ), etc. Saturday, he went over to see how they were doing and found a group of boys playing on the bank. He asked them to get off the bank, and they gave him some lip, including the SPL. John was not there the entire time. He talked with ~~the~~ on Sunday, and gave ~~the~~ a lot of static, swearing at him in front of some of the other men and boys.

I contacted John shortly thereafter and confronted him with the incident. He denied that his boys had done anything wrong except take a few limbs off trees. He did apologize for his SPL giving ~~the~~ a hard time, and after that date, they went to Aquapaug to do a service project designated by ~~the~~

You are aware of the incident at Youth Expo. You might not know, however, that even his SPL indicated to one of our men that John did physically abuse the Explorer that was guarding the gate, and Kevin Smith also admits that it happened saying "The boy shouldn't have tried to stop him, John was so much bigger than him".



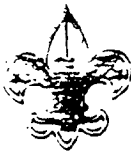
John is usually quite contrite after these incidents, but in my estimation sets a bad example for his Scouts by his own behavior. The kids think he is great, and have followed his style. He is [redacted] swearing at Roscoe and the incident at Youth Expo where one of his Scouts jumped the Explorer after John knocked him down.

[redacted] has had problems with him at Yawgoog. Most of these incidents have evolved around John pushing his way around, and I haven't kept any information on dates or incidents. [redacted] has handled those incidents without being involved.

This has the potential of being an excellent troop. I'm sure that Kevin Smith is ready to move into the Scoutmaster's position if John is asked to step down. Kevin realizes that John was wrong, but is loyal to John and doesn't want to see him hurt too bad.

Phil

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phil", with a large, sweeping initial stroke.



NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL 548 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

175 Broad Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

401-351-8700

20 January 77

Reverend John P. Condon  
Blessed Sacrament Church  
[Redacted]  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Dear Father Condon,

We have received the Charter for Troop 71, Blessed Sacrament Church in Providence and have reregistered the Unit with the following qualifications:

- 1) The policies and procedures for fund-raising by Scout units must be adhered to. Any and all finance projects related to the unit and conducted by the Troop or any related or unrelated organizations or individuals must have prior approval using the standard "Unit Money Earning Application".
- 2) That any trip in or out of the Council territory be approved in advance on Local or National Tour Permit and that all vehicles being used to transport Scouts carry at least the minimum recommended insurance (\$50,000/\$100,000 auto or station wagon; \$100,000/\$300,000 bus).
- 3) That the policies, procedures or instructions for operation of a Scout unit, District or Council events must be followed by the leadership of Troop 71.

Your cooperation as <sup>SM</sup> ~~head of the~~ (sponsoring institution), <sup>IR</sup> ~~(Scout coordinator)~~, (Troop Committee Chairman), (Scoutmaster) in instructing your Scout leaders in our position as outlined above. We wish for nothing more than the continuance of a good Scouting program for boys.

Should there be infractions of the rules as stated, the Council will take whatever action deemed appropriate, which could include the revocation of the Charter.

Sincerely,

George B. Roorbach  
Council President

GBR/m

SM  
IR  
[Handwritten signature]  
[Handwritten signature]  
[Handwritten signature]



COFFEY, MCGOVERN AND NOVOGROSKI

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

15 WESTMINSTER STREET  
PROVIDENCE, R. I. 02903

JOHN G. COFFEY  
CHARLES J. MCGOVERN  
ARTHUR NOVOGROSKI

JUSTIN P. MCCARTHY  
JOHN G. COFFEY, JR.  
STEPHEN C. HANLEY

TELEPHONE  
27-144

January 24, 1977

Mr. Vincent N. Borrelli  
Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts  
of America

[REDACTED]  
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Vince:

The proposed letter as to Troop 71 seems to accord with the decision  
of the Committee.

Very truly yours,

CJM:mf

Charles J. McGovern

CONF027300



# NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL 546 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

175 Broad Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903

401-351-9700

## STATEMENT FROM CHARLES BLACKMAR

This statement was taken by Stuart M. Meade, Exploring Director, from [REDACTED] member of Explorer Post 327 Warwick.

- On Sunday afternoon, May 16, 1976, [REDACTED] was stationed at Gate 5 at Lincoln Downs, the site of "Youth Expo '76". [REDACTED] was assigned that position by Mr. Everett Brunckow, Support Service Chairman of Youth Expo. Mr. Brunckow's instructions to [REDACTED] was that no one was to enter or leave by Gate 5 so that no one would cross the race track.

In the first 45 minutes that [REDACTED] was on duty, several people tried to enter by that gate. These people were refused admittance by [REDACTED] in a courteous manner.

Mr. John Yates then approached the gate to obtain admission and was stopped by [REDACTED]. Mr. Yates told [REDACTED] that "he had to go through". Mr. Yates stated to [REDACTED], "I'm one of the bosses." His explanation to [REDACTED] included the need for his Troop's pioneering project needing vaseline. [REDACTED] stated that Mr. Yates spoke in a very harsh voice.

[REDACTED] stated that "I held the gate closed against his pulling". "When he continued to pull the gate, I dropped the chain around the gate to hold it in place".

[REDACTED] continued, "He shoved me and reached for the gate. When I blocked his way, he shoved me again and opened the gate".

At this point, several members of Mr. Yates's Troop grabbed [REDACTED], struck him in the face, and pushed him down in the dirt and gravel.

[REDACTED] continues, "Then he walked through the gate with the others because I had dirt and gravel in my face and eyes and could not stop them".

[REDACTED] then went to Mr. Brunckow and reported the incident to him. [REDACTED] did not know what happened after that.-

(Statement taken December 15, 1976)

*Stuart M. Meade*

12 November 76

Mr. James A. Colson  
President, Parish Council  
Blessed Sacrament Church

Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Dear Mr. Colson,

In response to your letter I am attaching a unit money-earning application. Please be aware that District and Council has an obligation to be sure that all unit money raising projects are in harmony with National by laws, and have approval of the sponsoring institution. Scout units should conform to any role established by the sponsor.

In answer to paragraph two, the sponsor of the Troop, Blessed Sacrament Church, and the governing body of that church are responsible for the Scouting program (Packs, Troops and Posts). If the policy making body of your church is the Parish Council, then the Troop is responsible to the Council. I would also believe that any unit would function in harmony with the spiritual leaders of the Parish.

No Scoutmaster has the authority to remove a unit from your Parish. The Boy Scouts of America have chartered your institution to conduct the program of Scouting. The institution selects the leaders and supervises the operation of the total Scouting program. All dues, unit treasury, equipment, and all other equipment and all other equipment secured for Scouting purposes belonging to the Institution, and in the event of lapse of charter to the local Council who are obliged to hold such funds and equipment in trust pending re-organization of Scouting in that institution.

If there are any further questions, you may write or call me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Vincent M. Borrelli  
Scout Executive

VMB/m  
enclosure