

July 15 1983
Little Rock, Arkansas

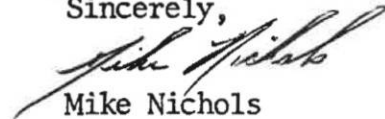
To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that a fundamentalist religious element has begun a campaign to have Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh removed from the country. What harm, what crime has the man committed aside from thinking differently than those who would oust him? His teachings seem no different from those of other moral and philosophical teachers in the world past and present. It would appear that he has been marked for persecution simply because he is not American born and because he takes a different perspective than the narrow minded hate mongers who would have his hide.

What of our foreign born college professors, artists, and business persons? Should they all be thrown into the sea because they are different, because they do not adhere to a fundamentalist point of view which, since its resurgence over the past few years, has set America back a good thirty years? I think not.

Hate and ignorance and fear are the greatest enemies of a free society. Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh represents none of these things. After two hundred years isn't it time we truly guaranteed a man's right to his beliefs?

Sincerely,



Mike Nichols

Technical Director,
Arkansas Repertory Theatre