

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5/26/95

Kate Michelman
President

April 11, 1995

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. President:

I write to express how deeply insulted and offended I feel, both personally and as head of NARAL, by your decision not to attend our tribute to Justice Blackmun on May 22nd. Although the decision is consistent with past history, it is inconceivable to me why you have rejected this particular request.

Since 1992, we have made few requests of your office, none of which has been honored. I made it quite clear to all concerned that this event was very important to me personally and to NARAL. Indeed, I believed that this request would be viewed as a win/win for all involved, given the current importance of, and threats to, choice, the Party's need to strengthen its base of pro-choice voters, and NARAL's extraordinary work in '92 and beyond -- not to mention that this event is a tribute to a truly great man. I am shocked by how wrong I was.

This is not only an affront to NARAL, but also to Justice Blackmun. There is no one who has done more to save women from the shame, degradation and humiliation of unjust and cruel laws, to protect our lives, health and dignity, and to ensure our full equality and participation in American life than this humble and courageous man. Justice Blackmun has stood firm in his principles and never wavered in his conviction. He deserves to be honored at the highest levels.

Your decision not to participate in this historic tribute sends a powerful message -- one that will not be lost on all who hear it.

Sincerely,



National Abortion
and Reproductive Rights
Action League

Promoting
Reproductive
Choices

NARAL
1156 15th Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 973-3000