May 16, 1972

To: Spencer Kimball
    William C. Whitford
    Ted Finman
    Robert B. Seidman
    James B. MacDonald
    Marygold S. Melli
    Joel F. Handler
    Warren Lehman
    Willard Hurst
    Orrin L. Helstad
    Samuel Mermin
    Zigurds L. Zile
    Allen Redlich
    George Bunn

John E. Conway
John C. Stedman
William A. Cline
Arlene Christenson
Thomas C. Heller
Neil K. Komesar
August Eckhardt
Frank J. Remington
Walter B. Raushenbush
Abner Brodie
William G. Rice
Edward L. Kimball
G. W. Foster, Jr.
Gordon B. Baldwin

Faculty Members of the
University of Wisconsin Law School

This is to acknowledge your open and public letter delivered to our office after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 12, 1972. In that letter you stated:

"A large number of responsible students and faculty at the law school have made written statements testifying to numerous, unprovoked assaults by federal and local police officials on participants in the demonstration . . . we call on you personally to insure that the many charges of police assaults that have been made are thoroughly investigated . . . ."

Your letter seemed to imply that there was something improper in referring complaints of this nature to the FBI. I fail to see the impropriety of referring complaints to the agency that many, myself included, consider to be the most competent investigative agency in the world.

On Monday, May 15, 1972, my entire staff of attorneys and I were present at the Law School by 9:40 a.m. We attempted to contact each of you. We have now met or talked by phone with all but one of the signatures to your letter. We have been informed that he is out of the State.
With a single exception, our reception was warm, friendly and each of you expressed a desire to cooperate with our efforts. In several cases, you expressed appreciation for our presence and interest. We are grateful for that reception.

The results of our interviews demonstrate that twenty-three (23) of you were not present and did not have first-hand knowledge of the incident. Furthermore, twenty-one (21) of you had not seen the written statements referred to in your letter. Most of you who had not seen the statements said that you relied on the representations of one or two faculty members and conversations with students. Certainly under the circumstances it was reasonable for you to rely on that information.

Of the six (6) or seven (7) faculty members who stated that they had knowledge of some or all of the written statements, no one could or would provide us with copies of those statements. One faculty member stated that he considered the statements to be "privileged information." Another said the statements were in the hands of various attorneys, and perhaps we could get copies later on. Still another faculty member refused to provide the names of students whom he knew to have signed statements. One faculty member felt that our presence at the Law School was "a harassment." Two faculty members who were present at the Federal Building would not reveal the names of law students whom they observed committing specific acts.

Those who had read the statements would only provide us with vague and general information about the content of the statements. Only a few of you provided information that may be ultimately helpful.

It is an interesting approach to state that information exists, call for an investigation based on that information, and then not make the information available to the investigation. While your letter may have produced heat, it has yet to generate light.

You may be assured our office will continue to explore this incident. We have been active in attempting to secure all possible information since last Wednesday. Where appropriate, we will continue to refer complaints to the FBI for thorough investigation.
We request that you provide us with the written statements referred to in your letter.

We remain willing to return to the Law School any time you feel our presence can be productive.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

JOHN O. OLSON
United States Attorney

JOO:1f