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June 14, 2010

TO: MWGM Tommie Phillips

RWDGM, RWSCW, RWJGW, RWGS

Greetings and Felicitations Grand Master and Staff officers. We pray all is well with each of you.

This letter is in response to your letter dated 17 May, 2010; subject: Un Masonic Conduct Charges against Charles Tyner

This letter is NOT intended to be demeaning, insulting or disrespectful to anyone; however it is intended to ask the question; WHY SUCH A SMALL SLAP ON THE HAND FOR ALL OF THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY CHARLES TYNER AGAINST THE CONSTITUTION AND CODE OF CONDUCT OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA. This is an insult to the institution of Freemasonry and a mockery to our Grand Lodge.

This small penance surely does not fit the crimes committed by Charles Tyner. I was totally taken aback when I read your letter. I did not believe it, and still do not believe that my Grand Lodge would allow such prostitution of our constitution go unpunished. I say unpunished because 30 days is not a punishment for the crimes committed. In other words he got away with all of the hatred he bestowed upon many of our members, three of whom were Past Grand Masters.

I have been inundated with calls concerning your letter. There are many brothers and sisters who are rightfully upset about the so called punishment. You ask why they are calling me; simply because they need and want to discuss the issue with someone they feel they can trust. They are hurt, especially since many of their husbands and fathers were suspended by Tyner for 7 months or more. Not to mention the put downs, open insults to many of the brothers and sisters, the diabolic plot to rid certain officers of their position simply because they ran against him and the incompetence to practice good leadership. Also not to mention the loss of the Berkeley Property. Many of us believe that it was partially due to his incompetence that caused us to lose the property and being involved in several law suits. No wonder we are broke, and after reading documents pertaining to this Property we are not out of the woods yet. I can never remember a brother having to use his home as collateral for moneys owed by Grand lodge. I am also aware that Tyner has insurance business with the O.E.S. Correct me if I am wrong. This is the same man that told the Grand lodge that it was a conflict of interest for Fred Young to sit on both boards;

the Grand Lodge board and the board for the Berkeley property. Yet as Grand Master he had business deals with the O.E.S. and others. If this isn't a conflict of interest I do not know what is. In addition, he suspended MWPGM George Blue for allegedly "electioneering" and he himself sent out a letter to all of the lodges stating that he appointed Tommie Phillips as Deputy Grand Master. This is a blatant disregard of the constitution. You CANNOT do that!! But he did and got away with it. That Tyner intentionally disregarded the constitution is the problem that I have and will always have.

I do not know who the committee was that adjudicated the charges; I am sure that several are in the legal business, and knowing all of the brothers in the jurisdiction I am sure I can take an educated guess, but that's not important to me; what's important to me is how in the world did you and your staff officers come up with the punishment of 30 days. I am sure you took each offence and attempted to make the punishment fit the crime. Maybe in a civil court, but Masonically when you stand before the altar and swear on the Holy Bible to uphold the Constitution, Code, and Conduct of the Grand Lodge and then break that promise; to me that is a Masonic Felon and should be dealt with accordingly. I know, I was the presiding officer when three times he swore and three times he lied. Sort of reminds me about something in the holy Bible when Peter lied three times about knowing Christ.

Masonic murder and Masonic thievery to many of our brothers and sisters has occurred in our jurisdiction and the punishment does not fit the crime at all. This is why it's very important to closely look at our line officers and judge their leadership styles as they advance to higher stations. I will do all in my power to prevent this sort of thing from happening again. I pray God that we have NOT set a precedence of incompetence for our future leaders. If our future leaders are "self serving" in my estimation, I will do all in my power to convince the craft to select someone else. Some of us are nothing but opportunist wanting to have a title of importance attached to our name and nothing more.

This letter serves another purpose, and that is to place notice to each of you line officers that this kind of action by a leader WILL NOT be condoned in the future. The craft has had its fill of incompetence. It appears that Tyner has gotten away with all of the atrocities he committed, but no more. It is without a doubt wrong, unjust, and Un Masonic. Read your constitution as I do each and every day. Learn it well, absorb and digest our laws and our code of conduct. Treat everyone the way you want to be treated, fair and equal. And above all never put a brother down simply because you're Grand Master. If we do not abide by the letter of the constitution, then we may as well close our doors and join some other organization. Our numbers are dwindling and you wonder why? God bless us ALL!!

NOTE: My wife and I will be attending Grand Lodge for only a couple of days. If there are accommodations for us, please disregard or cancel for we will obtain our own accommodations in Riverside. In the words of a dear friend and brother, MWPGM Martin L Kennison who always said, "something ought to be said" and as the active Senior Past Grand Master, I said it Martin!! Not that it does any good. You may show this letter to anyone; it doesn't matter. I am not afraid of the truth!

*Joseph M. Nicholas  
T. L. Brother*