

59 West 10th Street, Apt. 4B  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
February 10, 1986

Richard F. Braun, President  
Village Independent Democrats  
224 West 4th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Rick:

I don't know where to begin. I was certainly touched that you took the trouble to write asking me to consider rejoining the VID. After all, some of my recent activities might be viewed by one less tolerant as unfriendly, even disloyal to VID. It's good to know that you understand.

I certainly do have vivid memories of the "excitement of the debate" at VID. And, needless to say, I would dearly love to reacquaint myself with old friends. But in that connection, I'm a little worried. Some of the folks I remember most keenly don't seem to have signed your letter. Does this mean they've left the club? The ol' place just wouldn't be the same without that sweet young ingenue-type Ilene, those charming brothers, that lovable elderly gentleman Mr. Van Felix and that very cheerful one they call Stephanie. If they are still in the club, it's hard to imagine why you wouldn't have asked them to sign the letter. Lord only knows, I'm sure I'm not the only one for whom those names would bring the memories flooding back.

The list of forums you've held was, of course, impressive. But how could you have forgotten to include that very constructive one that helped the uninitiated to understand how nearly indistinguishable our local police are from a Central American death squad? And I'm sorry I missed the one on "Gays and Lesbians in the Judiciary." That was the one with Catherine Abate as moderator and Alice Schlesinger, Ira Globerman, Bobbi Berlin and Danny Roskoff as panelists, right? The one where Ed Koch was praised effusively for his outstanding record of appointments, right? Or am I thinking of some other forum somewhere else?

I don't have to tell you that I haven't always been pleasantly received when I've taken a stroll down Memory Lane and stopped by to say hello to the old gang up at the club. But now that I've received this invitation from you--what the heck, I'll let bygones be bygones and stop by again on the 13th.

I get goose bumps just thinking about being back there again;

I can already picture myself standing in my favorite place in the outer hall. God, I can hardly wait for the 13th! If I get there a little place, don't let anyone take my favorite spot in the hall.

As always,

Tim

Tim James

P.S. How did you explain to Danny, Stephanie, et al. why it might not be the greatest idea for them to sign the letter? That must have been quite an exercise in tact. Then again, maybe they just weren't interested in signing a letter designed to bring a reactionary element back to the hallowed halls.

July 7, 1986

Mr. Thomas Wallace  
Executive Director  
New York State Board of Elections  
99 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12260

Dear Mr. Wallace:

The Village Independent Democrats hereby formally requests that a proceeding pursuant to Section 6201.3 of the Rules and Regulations of the New York State Board of Elections be commenced by the New York State Board of Elections against Ms. Dorothy C. Brandt and "Friends of Dorothy C. Brandt" for violations of the Fair Campaign Code. Ms. Brandt is a candidate for the office of Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York, New York County, in the Democratic Party primary to be held on September 9, 1986. Ms. Brandt's campaign headquarters is located at 233 East 52nd Street, New York, New York 10022 and the telephone number is (212) 688-7154

The attached piece of literature, which was paid for and is being distributed on behalf of Ms. Brandt's candidacy by "Friends of Dorothy C. Brandt", lists the Village Independent Democrats as an endorser of Ms. Brandt's candidacy. The Village Independent Democrats did endorse Ms. Brandt's candidacy at its May 19, 1986 general membership meeting. However, at its June 11, 1986 general membership meeting, the Village Independent Democrats rescinded this endorsement and endorsed Ms. Brandt's opponent. Ms. Brandt and at least one of her campaign workers were present at this time, and she was informed by representatives of the Village Independent Democrats that it desired that its name be removed from any of her literature as an endorser of her candidacy.

On June 21, 1986, ten days after the Village Independent Democrats both rescinded its endorsement of Ms. Brandt's candidacy and requested that its name be removed from her literature, workers for Ms. Brandt's candidacy were distributing the attached piece of literature which lists the Village Independent Democrats as one of her endorsers. On June 26, 1986, Carol Feinman, Esq., counsel for the Village Independent Democrats, demanded of Mr. Larry Douglas, Ms. Brandt's campaign manager, that the attached piece of literature be removed from distribution or that, at the very least, the name of the Village Independent Democrats be removed from the literature as an endorser of Ms. Brandt's candidacy. Mr. Douglas refused to comply with either request and contended that the literature had been printed prior to June 11, 1986.

Section 6201.1 of the Rules and Regulations of the New York State Board of Elections provides that no person or committee, during the course of any campaign for nomination or election to public office, shall directly or indirectly, or by means of campaign literature, media advertisements or broadcasts, public speeches, press releases, writings or otherwise, engage in or commit political practices involving subversion or undermining of the electoral process, including, but not limited to, the preparation or distribution of any fraudulent or falsely identified writing.

The continued distribution of any literature on behalf of Ms. Brandt's candidacy, listing the Village Independent Democrats as an endorser is a violation of the letter and spirit of the Fair Campaign Code. While it is true that the literature in question might have been printed prior to the date on which the Village Independent Democrats rescinded its endorsement of Ms. Brandt, the fact remains that this literature is still being distributed subsequent to the date on which the Village Independent Democrats both rescinded its endorsement of Ms. Brandt and endorsed Ms. Brandt's opponenet.

The Village Independent Democrats is one of the foremost political clubs in New York County and its endorsement of candidates is often influential in the election of such candidates. The use of its name as an endorser of a candidate when the Village Independent Democrats is not supporting that candidate and, in fact, is supporting the candidate's opponnet, is nothing less than the subversion and undermining of the electoral process. To allow this literature to continue to be distributed is to allow a fraud to be perpetrated upon the electorate.

The Village Independent Democrats respectfully request that the New York State Board of Elections direct Dorothy C. Brandt and the "Friends of Dorothy C. Brandt", as well as any other campaign entity acting on her behalf, to cease and desist from distributing the attached piece of literature, or any other literature with the name "Village Independent Democrats" or "VID" listed as an endorser and that the New York State Board of Elections impose a fine of \$1,000 pursuant to Section 6201.3(i)(2) of the Rules and Regulations of the New York State Board of Elections against the "Friends of Dorothy C. Brandt" and/or Ms. Dorothy C. Brandt for the above-cited violations of the Fair Campaign Code. The Village Independent Democrats also requests that the New York State Board of Elections take expedited action on this request due to the short time before the September 9, 1986 Democratic primary election.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Braun, President  
Village Independent Democrats  
224 West 4th Street  
New York, New York 10014

Carol Feinman, Counsel  
Village Independent Democrats  
(212) 587-4684

cc: Mr. Larry Douglas  
Friends of Dorothy C. Brandt  
233 East 52nd Street  
New York, New York 10022

Ms. Dorothy C. Brandt  
Friends of Dorothy C. Brandt  
233 East 52nd Street  
New York, New York 10022