



## National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice

“Committed to Justice for all”

### Bennett Asked to Provide the Empirical Data for his Racial Remarks

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Racist comments hurt all Americans, regardless of their ethnicity

Fay Lassiter, President Of NABCJ wrote a letter to Bill Bennett asking him for the data to support his remarks and stating if he did not have any, he should apologize for his damning remarks about African Americans. The remarks were made by William “Bill” Bennett, former Education Secretary, on his call-in radio show, Morning in America. A copy of the President’s letter is below.

October 31, 2005

William Bennett  
Morning in America Radio Show

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice is one of the largest coalitions of criminal justice professionals representing all facets of criminal justice. It is an organization that concerns itself with the needs, concerns, and contributions of African Americans and other people of color as they relate to the administration of equal justice. It is also a multiethnic, nonpartisan, nonprofit association of criminal justice professionals and community leaders dedicated to improving the administration of justice. The Association was founded as a vehicle by which criminal justice practitioners could initiate positive change from within, while increasing opportunities for the average citizen to better understand the nature and the operation of our local, state, and federal criminal justice processes.

We are writing about the tactless, unsupported and damning remarks that you made recently. During your call-in radio show you said: “...you could abort every black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down.”

We ask that you provide the empirical data to support your statement. Otherwise, the statement does unfairly impugn the character of yet to be unborn African Americans and those who have been born. And for this, you do need to apologize. The fact that you went on to state “ that would be an impossibly ridiculous and morally reprehensible thing to do, but your crime rate would go down,” does not excuse or mitigate your statement and apparent beliefs. To the contrary, it solidifies that you actually believe the genocide of African Americans would be an answer to the crime problems in America. An ignorant and unsupported statement like this is what causes justice in this country to be skewed and I must say, has caused other atrocities in the world. This kind of propaganda from a former statesman and congressman should cause us all to rise up with concern.

Please be informed that the fact that the over representation of African Americans in the criminal justice system in America is not an accurate representation of their character or behavior but is more a representation of the bias attitudes of people like yourself towards African Americans.

Sincerely,

Fay Lassiter  
President

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