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Letter from Madeleine Giguère

Madeleine Giguère

University of Maine at Portland-Gorham

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August 22, 1972

Dr. Helen Batchelor
Coordinator of Equal
Employment Opportunity
University of Maine at
Portland-Gorham

Dear Helen:

I have serious concern with the lack of specification of who is a minority member in the Affirmative Action Program. Is there any federal or state definition? To what extent will Franco-Americans be included? Both the Board of Trustees and the Federal Executive Orders mention discrimination because of national origin. Furthermore, Chancellor McNeil in reply to my letter of December 9, 1971, pledged that the forthcoming Affirmative Action Program would "include all members of minority groups." In justice, I believe Franco-Americans must be included. What steps might be taken to see that something is done for the Franco's?

Franco-Americans have been ignored again and again by so-called liberals. I believe that this will happen less and less in the future. The current interest of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission in Franco-Americans is part of the growing recognition of the problems of small local or regional minority groups. I would hope that the institution with which I am associated would be in the vanguard of this broadened effort to provide equal opportunity for all.

Sincerely yours,

Madeleine GIGUERE
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology

MG/lc

cc: Louis J. P. Calisti, President