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Secretary Benjamin Carson, MD
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410

Secretary Carson:

Today, I read with great interest the remarks you made at HUD to the federal employees now under your charge. I have to say, I was quite shocked at your depiction of African slaves as “another form of immigrants.”

You may or may not realize it, but today is also the day that the US Supreme Court handed down a 7-2 decision in what we commonly call “The Dred Scott case.” Your speech today certainly will, like the Dred Scott decision, be universally denounced, not only by scholars, but by history, and certainly by the American people, as well as the decedents of slaves that now populate our great nation.

It’s quite sad that you chose to make this speech on such a momentous day in the history of African Americans. In case you were not aware of other important events in African-American history that occurred on this date, allow me to remind you of just a few:

- Today was the day Cassius Clay was given the name Muhammad Ali;
- The great jazz trumpeter Howard McGhee was born in Tulsa. His influence on Dizzy Gillespie and others formed the modern jazz movement;
- Marion Barry was elected mayor of Washington DC under the slogan “Take a Stand.”

You sir, have added to this list of significant events, in perhaps the most vile way possible.

The horrific tragedy that is the American slave trade is not something that should ever be used in the manner you did today. Our country, under its rule of law, systematically kidnapped **12.5 MILLION¹** African men, women, and children. If they survived the middle passage, they were sold like cattle at auction. Once in the hand of their owners, they were starved, beaten, raped, and murdered.

This tragedy is not a punchline or a talking-point: it is purely the darkest moment in our history, and we, as a nation, should be ashamed of our past and how we treated God’s children in our midst.

You now have the great responsibility to see that American’s of all races, backgrounds, creeds and beliefs are afforded shelter where they can plan their American adventure to pursue their dreams. You owe all American’s an apology for your shameful, hurting words.

In 1865, Union General William Sherman, promised freed African slaves, “40 acres and a mule.” I urge you to stop at Sherman’s statue in President’s Park the next time you are at the White House, and reflect on how you, one of the highest ranking African-Americans in government, can see that Sherman’s promise is fulfilled by HUD while under your guidance.

Cordially,
/S/ SIGNED ELECTRONICALLY
The Most Reverend Michael V. Seneco, SPSA, DD, L.Th.
Titular Bishop of Montowese
Presiding Bishop Emeritus

¹ <http://www.theroot.com/how-many-slaves-landed-in-the-us-1790873989>