MAJ. PAUL MARTIN'S STATEMENT:

Some of the political leadership in Durham is in the process of establishing a dangerous precedent. Should law enforcement arrest a white nationalist carrying a rifle at a demonstration and not arrest a member of the IWW?

Should law enforcement determine the severity of charges for persons who destroy or deface monuments based upon the political leanings of county commissioners? Is it alright (sic) for the left to destroy or deface a monument but not the right? Are statements concerning the severity of criminal charges by county commissioners an effort to obstruct justice since they control the budget for the Sheriff as well as raises for the Sheriff and all his personnel?

Is it okay for IWW members to destroy or deface a book at the library whose philosophy they despise but not okay for white nationalists to do the same?

Political leanings must not constitute the elements of a crime. Murder is murder and vandalism is vandalism.

Are the county commissioners stating that it is okay to burn a building in Durham if segregationist practices occurred in that building 50 years ago? Perhaps burning one of these buildings should only be a misdemeanor. The climate into which we are being guided by some of our political leadership encourages anarchistic and destructive actions as long as the political leadership agrees with the underlying philosophy of those engaged in such activities.

This is a recipe for absolute anarchy that totally undermines the constitution of this country. Anarchists are using the volatile issue of race to accomplish destruction and spread hatred. Is this what our political leadership desires? Is this leadership?

Meanwhile citizens are being shot at an alarming rate, citizens are the victims of armed robberies at an unprecedented rate, citizens are victims of aggravated assaults at an alarming rate, gunfire is so rampant in some neighborhoods to the point that a gas line was ruptured in one neighborhood and people had to be evacuated. Where is the concern for victims of gunshot wounds? How are they supposed to provide for their families? What are we doing for children who are traumatized by violence and death, sometimes of their own family members?

When leaders turn their heads away from the danger of anarchistic behavior ,the poor and the vulnerable suffer disproportionately. Yet these are the very victims the anarchists say they are helping.