

Report of the Executive Director
To The CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
For May, 1962

EMPLOYMENT AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Equal Employment Opportunity Conference

The Executive Director represented the city at a conference in Washington, D. C., on May 19, which was called by Vice President Lyndon Johnson on behalf of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity.

Employment Program

The Commission has played a key role in several "breakthroughs" in employment practices of Chicago companies. Material Service Division hired its first four Negro ready-mix truck drivers. Zenith Radio Corporation has hired its first two Negro girls in clerical positions. Two construction companies have hired Negro bricklayers or bricklayer apprentices.

After action by the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, Danly Machine Specialties, Inc., took steps to hire its first Negro machinist apprentice. Danly also took several other steps aimed at merit employment.

Metropolitan Sanitary District

To make certain that contractors with the Metropolitan Sanitary District are in compliance with the nondiscrimination clause in their contracts the Commission has worked out merit employment procedures with the Sanitary District.

Negro Labor Relations League

The report prepared by the Commission on the charges of the Negro Labor Relations League that 21 city contractors discriminated against Negro subcontractors, skilled tradesmen and apprentices, was submitted to the City Purchasing Agent, Metropolitan Sanitary District, Board of Education, Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Park District, and the Chicago Transit Authority. Four of the contractors, possibly, may not be in compliance with the nondiscrimination clause in their contracts. We have asked these contractors to take certain steps to come into compliance. If these contractors do not cooperate the Commission plans to notify the appropriate city agency about their noncompliance.

City Contractor Program

During this month, in the prosecution of our continuing contract's compliance program, staff repeatedly visited 36 construction sites (road work, housing, sewers, and school construction) and conducted interviews with 44 companies on their personnel practices.

Youth Opportunity Center

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations is cooperating with the Mayor's Youth Opportunity Center, located at 211 West Wacker Drive, Room 1100. Paul Zimmerer, Executive Director of the Mayor's Committee for Economic and Cultural Development, is serving as temporary director.

Formation of the Center was announced April 26 by Mayor Daley. It is under the general direction of a 57-member committee of business, industry, labor, education and civic leaders called the Mayor's Committee for Youth Employment Opportunities. Mr. Clair M. Roddewig, President of the Association of Western Railways, is chairman.

Also responsible for the Youth Opportunity Center operations is the Chicago Youth Welfare Commission. The Center's goal is "A job for every Chicago youth able and willing to work."

CIVIL RIGHTS--LAW AND ORDER

Summer Plans

On May 11, our staff met with Park District Superintendent Daniel Flaherty, representatives of the Police Department, the Commission on Youth Welfare, and the public schools to coordinate plans regarding potential trouble spots for the summer months.

On May 22, our Chairman, Ely M. Aaron, and staff met with Superintendent Wilson and police command personnel on the same subject matter.

On May 25, we met with our Public Relations Advisory Committee to plan June meetings with the top men of the city's news media for the purpose of seeking their cooperation in the proper news handling of racial incidents.

8133 South Sangamon and 5439 South Union

The Negro family which moved into 8133 South Sangamon is in the process of selling and moving out of the neighborhood.

No further incidents have been reported with regard to the Negro family at 5439 South Union Avenue.

HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CARE

Hospital Staff Appointments

Six Negro physicians have recently been appointed to five hospitals:--Woodlawn, St. Anthony, Presbyterian-St. Luke's, Children's Memorial, and Columbus. This brings the total to 38 Negro physicians with 52 appointments at 25 hospitals other than Provident, Louise Burg and Ida Mae Scott, compared to 21 physicians with 29 appointments at 12 hospitals in September, 1960, when the Mayor's special committee was appointed.

South Side Hospital Situation

The Advisory Health Committee of the Commission is considering proposals for ways and means to alleviate the hospital bed shortage on the south side. Several years ago there were interests in the proposals for a south side branch of Cook County Hospital to meet this problem. After the advisory committee submits its report, the Commission plans to make some public recommendations.

Reprints of an article from New City, "Physicians, Hospitals, And The Negro Patient," by the Executive Director, are available from the Commission's Public Information Department.

Hospital Policies

Forty hospitals out of Chicago's 68 have now adopted our recommended policy statement for equality of medical care. Negotiations proceed with the remaining 28.

Meeting With Medical Interns

To acquaint Negro medical student interns and residents with the opportunities available to them in the city, a meeting was held in May with them to hear prominent Chicago Negro and white physicians. This was the first such meeting held and was enthusiastically received.

We understand that forty Meharry medical school students will be in town this summer working for the Chicago Transit Authority. We plan to hold a similar meeting with them.

NEW RESIDENTS

Refugees

The Chicago Committee on Cuban Resettlement, an inter-faith committee, has been organized with Attorney Patrick Crowley as Chairman.

Refugees from Hong Kong will probably be arriving soon. We are discussing our role in reference to such newcomers as will arrive under that program.

New Orleans Migrants

Staff knowledge of "free riders" from the south is limited to the known total arrivals, to date, of five men. Two are employed and one was returned to New Orleans. There is no information about the other two---they have become "absorbed" into the city's population.

Woodlawn Polio Campaign

Over 500 persons were inoculated in the Woodlawn area after our south side staff mobilized the community agencies and organizations for the May campaign by the Board of Health.

New Staff

Mrs. Elinor L. Smith was employed on the staff of the New Residents Department as of June 1, 1962.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Town and Garden Apartments

The Commission has held meetings with Baird & Warner, over the efforts of Negroes to lease apartments in the Town and Garden Apartments. We have been told that Baird and Warner plans to adopt a fair housing policy with regard to leases sometime around the first of the year.

College Program

To date the Commission has received 11 affirmative answers from Chicago area colleges in response to the Commission's request that colleges adopt a nondiscriminatory policy for the off-campus housing of students.

Lincoln Park

The tempo of community organization activity in this area has increased considerably in the last year. With proper cooperation from public and private agencies and from property owners in the area, the movement of Negroes in this area will not result in panic among white residents. We may develop here an interracial community similar to that in South Kenwood. Commission staff are cooperating closely with various community organization leaders.

Relocation Conference

On June 6, the Executive Director gave the keynote luncheon talk at the three-day relocation conference sponsored by Region Four of the Housing & Home Finance Agency.

"Look Before You Leave"

A new and revised version of our popular "primer for communities facing change" is now available from the Commission's Public Information Department.

PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION

Annual Report

Our annual report for 1961 has been forwarded to the Mayor and the City Council under separate cover. It is now being distributed to selected groups of citizens and organizations. Additional copies are available, in limited quantity, from the Public Information Department.

American Negro Emancipation Centennial

Prospects for a truly national, gigantic Centennial celebration in August, 1963, for McCormick Place, are now much brighter. Commissioners have helped enlist substantial support for the project.

1963 Conference

Chicago will be host to a "National Conference on Religion and Race," January 14-17, 1963. It will be sponsored jointly by the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Social Action Commission of the Synagogue Council of America, and the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations of the National Council of Churches.

Commission Speaking Program

During the past year more than 200 talks were given by Commissioners and staff to various civic, religious, and neighborhood groups, explaining Commission programs. This activity will continue during the next year.

Police-Community Relations

Staff is cooperating with the 13th Police District (937 North Wood Street) in a special community relations workshop. This follows two successful workshops in the Lawndale and Hudson Avenue districts. Such meetings have a wholesome effect on calming tensions in the community.

Child Care Institutions

The Commission has asked child care institutions in the city to affirm a policy of providing care for all children without regard to race. This is an important request because of the increasing number of Negro children in the city.

Dunbar Vocational High School

To increase the number of Negro apprentices in skilled trades we have worked out with Dunbar plans to host a luncheon on June 19, of business agents to acquaint them with the available supply of young people interested in a trade.

Muslims

We have been receiving a considerable amount of protest about the racial hatred preached in the publication "Muhammad Speaks," issued by Elijah Muhammad's Muslims. Some of the current anti-white vehemence of the Muslims stems from last month's violent clash between the Muslims and the police in Los Angeles. We are looking into the matter with a view to taking appropriate action.

CONFIDENTIAL NOTES TO COMMISSIONERS ONLY

Rainbow Beach

The daughter of a Negro union official reports that she was hit with a stone at Rainbow Beach on Sunday, May 20. Unfortunately, she failed to report this to the police on the beach and left without further incident. On other days Negroes have used the beach, particularly the warm days, without incident. This incident may frustrate our carefully planned efforts to discourage organized demonstrations on the beach.

Complaint Against Board of Education

The Illinois Fair Employment Practices Commission has set a public hearing for June 27th on the complaint of Sylvia Taylor, that she was denied a teaching position on account of her race at Amundsen Junior College. The Commission investigated this complaint last year and found that while certain discriminatory acts had been taken by some junior college officials, her complaint was without remedy. Miss Taylor had never been certified by the Board of Education as eligible to teach in a junior college and still is not so certified.

Personnel

We are asking the Civil Service Commission to assign the nine persons now on the Mayor's Committee on New Residents staff, paid on voucher, be transferred to our regular payroll for 1963. We are also asking for classification changes, upward, for our two Public Information Assistants, and one Human Relations Officer.

Englewood Mortgage Study

Our study of mortgage financing in a racially changing neighborhood, Englewood, has been submitted to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board for appropriate action. Discussions have been opened with leaders of savings and loan associations to see what local action might be taken to remove some of the abuses uncovered by our study.

Chicago Urban League

The budget committee of the Community Fund has been giving the Chicago Urban League's participation in the Community Fund a searching review as a result of protest against the manner in which the Urban League attacked the Chicago Board of Education. What is being argued is whether the Urban League took some inappropriate measures for an agency participating in the Community Fund. None of this has as yet been made public. Should it be made public there might be some bitter discussion.