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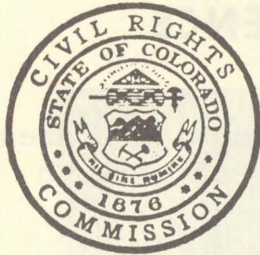
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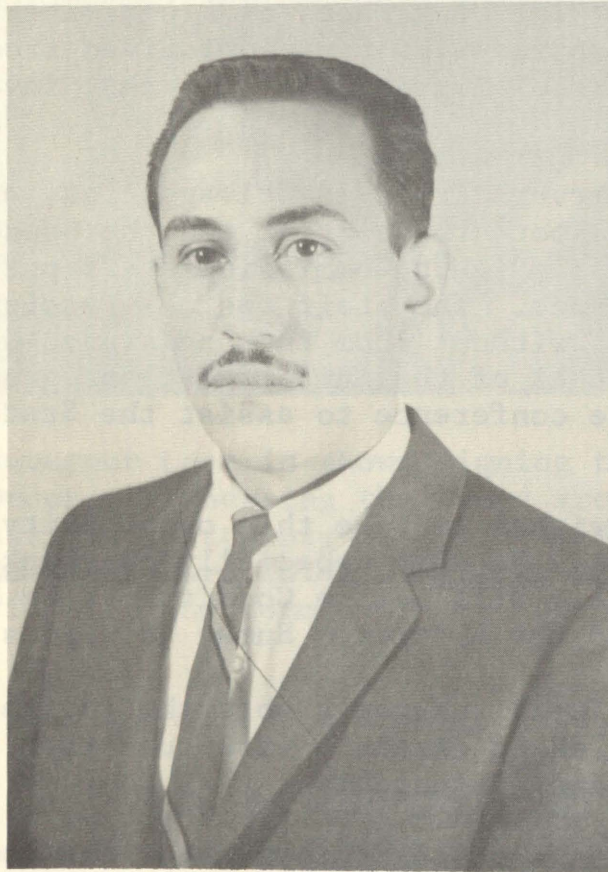
CIVIL RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

COLORADO CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

306 State Services Building
Denver 3, Colorado

July 1966

1525 Sherman Street
AComa 2-9911 Ext. 2621



NEW STAFF MEMBER JOINS CCRC

Announcement of the recent appointment of James A. (Jim) Garcia as a Civil Rights Specialist was made recently by Director James F. Reynolds. Jim is a native Denverite, having attended Public Schools in the East Denver area. Following his graduation from high school in 1953, he enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard, in which he served as a Radio Operator for four years. During this period of military service, he visited most of the major cities on both sides of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

His military service completed, Jim entered Mexico City College, where he engaged in studies leading ultimately to his earning the Bachelor of Arts Degree in History, with a minor in Political Science. The degree was earned however, at the University of Colorado, where Jim continued and completed his studies following his return from Mexico.

Immediately prior to joining the Commission, Jim was employed as a teacher in the Project Head Start Program.

Jim brings to the Commission a wealth of knowledge of the Spanish-surnamed community of Denver, as well as outlying regions of the State. This knowledge and rapport with that community, together with a strong tenacity of purpose regarding equality of opportunity for all peoples, places him in the enviable position of being a great asset to the Commission. We all join together in welcoming Jim to our team, and are looking forward to a long-time, fruitful association.

COLORADO COMMISSION HOSTS CCHR CONFERENCE

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission played host to the 18th Annual Conference of Commissions for Human Rights at Estes Park, Colorado, June 29th through July 3rd.

There were delegates from thirty-seven states, two provinces in Canada, and many cities. The conferees discussed "The Many Faces of Discrimination" in twenty-nine workshops, as well as a session with representatives from unions interested in working out a plan for resolving difficulties that involves complaints against unions.

The over three hundred delegates, observers from Federal agencies, and visitors were favorably impressed with both the content and the housekeeping activities of the conference. The Civil Rights Commission staff put in many long hours working on the conference. The staff was ably assisted by a group of enthusiastic volunteers, without whom the conference would have been seriously handicapped. Several of the Human Relations groups within the state sent personnel to the conference to assist the State Commission.

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission wishes to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who assisted. We wish especially to thank the Rocky Mountain Regional A.D.L., the Park Hill Action Committee, the Denver Commission on Community Relations, and the Littleton Human Relations Council.

Many of the conferees stayed in a business session almost the entire duration of the conference as they struggled to create a structure that the many types of Commissions could fit into comfortably.

The stickler was whether or not Commissions with enforceable laws would have the same problems and interests as those Commissions with non-enforceable laws. The contentious point is still unresolved.

There were several very interesting workshops. One of the most interesting was a discussion of "Testing a New Dimension in Discrimination." It was stated that many companies had, in the last year or two, adopted intelligence tests as a selection device for jobs that require very little in the way of intelligence, and did not require a test until the company had complaints of discrimination filed against them.

There were representatives from State, Federal and private agencies who are delving into the problem of the increasing use of tests that are not related in any way to the work being done.

An official resume of the conference is being prepared and will be made available to conference participants and other interested groups and individuals.



Governor Love is shown signing the Equal Opportunity Executive Order. Witnessing the event are, left to right, J. David Penwell, Assistant Attorney General; James F. Reynolds, Director; and Commissioners Quiat, Pollack, Torres, Sisneros; Chairman, Dora Piccoli; and Commissioners Anthony and Lee.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EXECUTIVE ORDER SIGNED BY GOVERNOR LOVE

Governor John A. Love recently signed an Executive Order establishing Equal Opportunity within the total structure of State government. The Order is designed to further implement the goal of equality of opportunity at all levels, and in all phases and activities of State agencies and departments.

In part, the Order states that the policy of the State of Colorado is, ". . . to encourage by affirmative action the elimination of discrimination in all aspects of the human relationship of discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry to the end that equality of opportunity is truly available to all persons", and that ". . . equality of opportunity necessitates more than passive compliance but demands affirmative action"

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (CON'T.)

The Order goes on to say that every State contract for public works or services is obligated to comply with a policy of non-discrimination and the contractor is required to file compliance reports with the contracting State agency. In the event of non-compliance by the contractor, the contract may be cancelled, terminated, or suspended.

Included among the ten points in the Governor's Order were affirmations that the policy and practice of all State employees and agencies would be non-discriminatory in such areas as, the appointment, assignment and promotion of State employees, providing public services, obligations of State contractors, offering of public employment services, training for job opportunities or advancement, to name a few.

State agencies were directed to follow the spirit, as well as the letter of the Order, and to report violations of the Order to the Office of the Governor.

The CCRC was charged with the responsibility to further compliance with the provisions of the Order. All State agencies and departments were specifically directed to cooperate with the Commission.

The policies enunciated by this Order reaffirms and extends a similar Executive Order promulgated by the Governor in July 1963.

NAIRO PLANS ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CHAPTER

Frederick B. Routh, Executive Director of the National Association of Inter-Group Relations Officials, (NAIRO) recently visited Denver and met with NAIRO members residing in the Mile-High City, along with other interested persons, with a view to the organization of a chapter in this geographic area.

Mr. Routh, a long-time NAIRO member and official, was a veritable fountain of knowledge and information, dispensing with valuable tips toward the establishment of a NAIRO chapter. He found commendable enthusiasm among those present, and expressed the hope that a chapter would soon be formulated. He pledged the full support and assistance of NAIRO National Headquarters in making initial and follow-up plans toward the establishment of a Rocky Mountain chapter.

An Ad-Hoc Committee was appointed to study the feasibility and degree of interest prevalent in this region. The first meeting is scheduled at about the time this Newsletter goes to press.

CCRC COMPLETES EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

In 1960, the then Colorado Anti-discrimination Commission conducted an employment survey of all agencies of State Government, to determine the number and percentage of minority-group employees within the various departments and agencies of the State, and the manner in which they were being utilized. One of the results of this survey revealed that, 49.5% of all departments were without minority-group employees. Labor grade levels, at that time, ranged from a low of Grade 1, to a high of Grade 39. The 1960 survey revealed that 50% of all minority-group persons were within the lowest Labor Grade category, namely, Grade 1 through Grade 5.

In 1965, a follow-up survey was undertaken by the Civil Rights Commission, (the name was changed in '65). The results of this survey fail to indicate any significant change. It was found that 63% of Negro employees, and 57% of Spanish-surnamed employees are concentrated in the Labor Grades from Grade 7 downward to Grade 1. For purposes of this survey, minority-group persons were identified as, Negro, Spanish-surnamed, Jewish, and Orientals. It was found that some few minority groups who were highly trained and possessed special skills, were filtering into the higher grade levels of employment.

It was revealed further that, a mere 9 Spanish-surnamed, 5 Negro, 11 Jewish, and 1 Oriental persons were being utilized in supervisory positions, throughout the entire State of Colorado.

Of all the department heads interviewed, 96.4% expressed the belief that there were no problems of integration within their departments, while 90.1% declared that they did not anticipate any problems in the integration of their work force. Documented studies have shown conclusively that few representatives of management know or understand what it means, or how it feels to be a member of a socially and economically disadvantaged group.

Finally, it was discovered during the course of this survey that, there were no plans being laid, or efforts being made, to create opportunities for minority-group persons, by any of the various departments of the State of Colorado.

It is obvious therefore, that a dire necessity exists for the various department heads to critically analyze their departments, with a view to the utilization of the skills and capabilities of minority-group employees, at a higher level than at present.

Copies of the survey are now being printed and will be available upon request.

Civil Rights Specialist James F. Warren supervised and conducted the major portion of the survey.

COMMISSION EMBARKS UPON POSITIVE PROGRAMS

The Commission's theme for 1966 is to be "Think and Act Positive". The Commission, having been bogged down in the minutia of receiving, investigating, and conciliating complaints, needs now, in addition to the foregoing, to adopt positive programs designed to attack, and ultimately eliminate patterns of discrimination. The new programs would embrace, but would not be limited to the three major areas of concern of the Commission, Public Accommodations, Employment, and Housing. As a starting point the Commission will implement a broad public relations program in the latter area, Housing. This program will provide information to every corner of the State, and will acquaint Colorado citizens with the strengthened Fair Housing Act of 1959, which was amended by the Legislature in 1965, and is now regarded as one of the strongest housing laws in the nation. To accomplish this, public appearances will be made to such organizations and activities as, Human Relations Councils, and other civic-minded groups, churches, synagogues and parishes, colleges and universities, apartment house owners and managers, minority group organizations, etc. These public appearances will be made by Commissioners, as well as staff members, utilizing speeches, radio and television appearances, showing current and effective films in conjunction with a speech, or as a discussion stimulant.

In a like manner, plans are being made to involve the Real Estate Industry, Negro and white, in workshops and seminars designed to obtain their valuable assistance in attaining open occupancy for all citizens as provided for in the Fair Housing Act.

Included in the area of "positive" action, the Commissioners issued a public statement of support of the recently inaugurated Metro Fair Housing Center, reported on elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As this Newsletter goes to press, a flyer is being prepared and printed for distribution in the predominantly Negro East Denver area. This flyer, which will be placed in the doors of some 40,000 homes, will acquaint its readers with the provisions of the Fair Housing Act; the role the CCRC plays in the implementation of that Act; and of the existence of and assistance available at the Metro Fair Housing Center.

Similar programs in the areas of Employment and Public Accommodations are being devised by staff members, both of which will receive equal emphasis, as in the case of Housing.

I owe all my success in life to having been always a quarter of an hour beforehand.

--- Lord Nelson

The darkest hour in any man's life is when he sits down to plan how to get money without earning it.

--- Horace Greeley

NEW DIVISION CREATED - COMMISSION EFFICIENCY ENHANCED

CCRC Director Reynolds recently announced the assignment of Civil Rights Specialist Warren D. Alexander to the newly created Conciliation and Compliance Division. In establishing this new arm of the Commission, Mr. Reynolds pointed out that the expeditious processing of complaints, as well as the determination of a reasonable solution of these complaints, were the primary missions of the new Division.

After a complaint has been thoroughly investigated by professional staff members, it is referred to the Director for a finding of probable cause. When such a finding is made, the complaint is then referred to Alexander, who takes whatever steps are deemed advisable to reach an amicable solution. In most cases, this involves conciliatory conferences with Respondents, resulting in a conciliatory agreement, in the form of a formal, written Conciliation Order, being entered into. The Respondent, Complainant, and the Commission Director are signatories to the Order. The case is then closed.

That this new program has been successful is borne out by the amicable and early settlement of several involved cases. Alexander was commended by Director Reynolds and by Commission Chairman Dora Piccoli for the manner in which he has set this new Division in motion.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The young non-violent protestors who are working in the rural counties of Mississippi's Delta, Alabama's Black Belt and Georgia's cotton country are not aiming at a world where all men can eat together at the same lunch counter. Their aim is to change a society which lets some men keep others from eating where they choose, to develop the 'beloved community' they speak of."

--- Horace Julian Bond, "Non-violence: An Interpretation"

CCRC SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES - 1964 - 65

Based on the firm belief that Commission activities are of interest to a wide segment of Colorado citizens, there is being published and distributed separate volumes, under the title shown above, designed to provide a comprehensive review of the many faceted operations of the Commission. These volumes will include chapters dealing with, "Highlights of Civil Rights in Colorado"; "A Description of the Commission, Commissioners, Staff and Functions"; "An Analysis of Complaints, Educational and Other Programs"; "A Report from the Attorney General"; "The History of Minority Groups in Colorado, and Their Present Status"; and, "A Summary of Surveys", to name a few.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (CON'T.)

A brief summation of some of the material to be presented includes a story on the amendment and the strengthening of the Fair Housing Act of 1959 by the General Assembly in the Spring of 1965. Also included will be information regarding the addition of non-discriminatory clauses to the law regarding cemeteries. In addition, there will be information concerning the opening of a branch office in Pueblo, Colorado, with Colorado Springs and Southern Colorado being made a part of its overall responsibility. Results of seven years of litigation, which ended in the United States Supreme Court finding in favor of Negro Pilot Marlon Green, and against Continental Air Lines, will also be published in these volumes. Statistical data relative to number and type of complaints, ethnic or racial identification of complainants, and other matters of significant interest will also be included.

It is anticipated that the first of these volumes will be off the presses and ready for distribution within the very near future.

This comprehensive summary was compiled by Civil Rights Specialist, Eleanor G. Crow.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION PLANS SPEAKERS BUREAU

With a view to keeping the citizenry of Colorado informed about the work and the accomplishments of the CCRC, plans are moving ahead, under the leadership of Civil Rights Specialist John A. Robinson to formulate a Speakers Bureau. Mr. Robinson has requested the assistance of the many effective Human Relations Councils in the Metropolitan Denver area to furnish competent persons to become active members of that Bureau.

In addition to discussions about the CCRC, speakers will discourse on such subjects as, Civil Rights, Human Relations, and local minority problems.

Present plans are to conduct a series of briefing sessions, along with providing a Speaker's Kit, so that they will be adequately prepared to make public appearances throughout the Metropolitan Denver area, as well as other areas of the State.

The primary purposes for establishing a Speaker's Bureau are, first, to fill the ever-increasing demand for speakers, and secondly, to create a general awareness on the part of the total community of the existence of interested, well-informed, non-professional people, conversant with the subject matter outlined above.

Interested persons are encouraged to contact Mr. Robinson at the CCRC office.

PROPRIETARY SCHOOL ACT CONTAINS ANTI-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

Colorado Governor John A. Love recently signed into law, "The Proprietary School Act of 1966". This new and far reaching legislation provides for the regulation and accreditation of private schools in the state which train persons for a field of endeavor in a business, trade, technical or industrial occupation. The Act covers schools offering primarily vocational training, however, it does not cover colleges, universities or private schools offering an education comparable to the public schools.

State Senator George L. Brown of Denver introduced an amendment to the original bill which stated in part, "No certificate of approval shall be issued by the State Board (of Vocational Education) to any proprietary school which denies enrollment in said school to any pupil, or makes any distinction or classification of pupils in said school, on account of race, color, or creed. The Colorado Civil Rights Commission shall have power to make investigations as to discriminatory practices of any proprietary school, and shall report thereon to the State Board, and said board shall, upon report that such school is engaging in discriminatory practices, deny or suspend a certificate of approval of such school . . . after notice and public hearing as required by the act."

Although this new act does not cover pre-schools or private schools and colleges within the state, it does specifically enter the area of education in a much needed area, e.g., Beauty and Barber Colleges, Electronics Schools, Secretarial Schools, Modeling Schools, etc. In addition, it provides an effective penalty not previously available. This is an example of the manner in which state licensing agencies can be effective instruments in the promotion of equal opportunities for all citizens.

PARK HILL GOLF COURSE MAKES NEWS AGAIN

The Park Hill Golf Club, Inc., located in a changing neighborhood of East Denver which is fast becoming predominantly populated by Negroes, was again in the news recently. It was in 1962 that the then Colorado Anti-discrimination Commission found the Park Hill Golf Club guilty of discrimination in their refusal to permit Negroes access to their greens to play a round of golf. On appeal by the Club, the District Court ruled that the Club had the right to restrict its facilities.

The Park Hill Golf Club, Inc., is a part of the George W. Clayton Trust. Prior to his death in 1899, Mr. Clayton had established the Clayton College for Boys. In his will he specified that the student body be restricted to,

PARK HILL GOLF COURSE (CON'T.)

"poor, white, male, orphan children". He also specified that the Mayor, Revenue Manager, and the President of the City Council serve as Commissioners of the Trust.

On February 1, 1966, Denver Mayor Tom Currigan was embarrassed publicly, when it was revealed that he had joined with Revenue Manager Charles Temple and, then City Council President Joe Ciancio on October 17, 1964, in signing a contract renewing the Club's lease for five years. This was many months before the original lease was scheduled to expire on December 31, 1965.

When the news of this lease renewal was made public, Mayor Currigan explained it away by saying, "It was a goof--a slip; call it what you will."

The Denver Young Democrats immediately went on record as being appalled by the extension of the lease and by the Mayor's explanation that he "goofed".

Civil Rights organizations vowed to remember Currigan's "goof" at the polls when the next election takes place in the autumn of 1966.

Later, Mayor Currigan, in an effort to correct his "goof", charged the Park Hill Golf Course with violating the conditions of the lease by practicing racial discrimination. The present City Council President, Mr. Elvin Caldwell, a Negro, and Revenue Manager Temple gave the Club 20 days in which to satisfactorily answer the charge, or to comply with the terms of the lease, forthwith.

On February 15, Robert O. Shearer, President of the Club announced, "Effective immediately, the Park Hill Golf Club, Inc., will entertain membership applications from any Negro, or members of any racial group desiring to use the facilities of the Club".

HOW DESCRIPTIVE IS RACE?

Denver City Manager of Safety and Excise Alfred Capra recently announced that persons on police-arrest records would be classified as Mongolian, Caucasian or Negro. He stated that ". . . we will now use the term 'race' in its scientific connotation. . . ." People of Spanish descent would be classified as Caucasian.

Some Civil Rights leaders have taken exception to the idea that the label of race has significant relationship to the description of a person. Among these leaders is James F. Reynolds, Director of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, who in a letter of protest to Mr. Capra stated, among other things, the use of the term "Negro" in categorizing an individual is actually a status label in present society and causes an emotional reaction in people rather than serving a descriptive purpose. Mr. Reynolds said "To say that I am dark brown is descriptive. To say that I am Negro is not."

RACE (CON'T.)

As this Newsletter goes to press, Mr. Capra and Mayor Thomas Currigan stated they would consider the suggestion of using physical characteristics rather than race labeling in describing fugitives.

GOVERNOR LOVE AND MAYOR CURRIGAN BOOST METRO FAIR HOUSING CENTER

In a noteworthy action taken recently, in connection with the opening of the Denver Metro Fair Housing Center, Colorado Governor John A. Love and Denver Mayor Tom Currigan praised the sponsors citizen volunteers who had labored so diligently to make the Center a reality.

In a letter directed to Rabbi Samuel Adelman, President of the Religious Council on Human Relations, the Governor said in part, "Your tireless efforts and the progressive attitude of Colorado's citizens have achieved noteworthy results in our State. We are justifiably proud of the Fair Housing Act of 1959, as amended -- one of the most effective such statutes in the United States."

Describing the occasion as, ". . . the proudest moment in my tenure as Chief Executive of this City", Mayor Currigan began his remarks by stating, "I believe that our children and grandchildren, as they look back, will consider this occasion one of the real milestones in the history of our city."

Describing himself as one whose philosophy wholeheartedly agrees with the objectives of the Fair Housing Center, the Mayor continued his congratulatory remarks by saying, "I think we all realize that this is a first step; a very important first step towards the elimination of ghettos and inadequate housing for many of our fellow citizens. I am confident that the Fair Housing Center will enable private enterprise and government to join hands in a joint effort to accept the challenge set forth by President Johnson in his recent State of the Union message to the Congress. In that message, the President said, 'Working together, private enterprise and government must go forward with the task of providing homes and all the other necessary parts of a flourishing community where our people can come to live the good life.'"

The Mayor concluded his remarks by reporting that the Denver Fair Housing Authority was moving forward to meet the challenge raised by President Johnson, and that it was willingly accepting its share of responsibility in providing decent and adequate housing for Denver citizens who, at this point in time, cannot afford to rent or purchase their own homes.

METRO FAIR HOUSING CENTER (CON'T.)

The occasion for the Governor's and the Mayor's remarks was a luncheon, held at the Diplomat Motor Hotel in Denver, and sponsored jointly by the Religious Council and the Steering Committee for the Establishment of the Metro Fair Housing Center. Included in the more than 100 persons attending the luncheon, which was chaired by Rabbi Adelman, were representatives of the business community, Human Relations Councils, Civil Rights organizations, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, the City Commission on Community Relations, Realtists and Realtor Boards, Bankers, Savings and Loan Associations, to name a few. This was the "kick-off" venture for the Religious Council and the Steering Committee, since this represented the first time that the total program of the Metro Fair Housing Center had been presented publicly. It also provided the planners with an opportunity to formally acquaint prospective members of the Governing Board with an overview of the Center's plan of operations.

Another featured speaker was John Hasselblad, Vice President of Van Schaack and Co., past president of the Denver Board of Realtors, and the 1965 "Realtor of the Year". In his prepared remarks, Mr. Hasselblad said in part, "Segregated neighborhoods compel other forms of segregation -- in employment, in schools, churches, etc., creating a senseless, immoral and costly situation for any city. Neighborhoods that once contributed their share of social and economic support to Denver have become areas of low community spirit where property tax revenues are decreasing. The Fair Housing Center will determine to a great extent whether Denver will become a complex of substandard segregated islands, or whether Metropolitan Denver will be increasingly open to people of every color and creed."

Governor Love's closing statement in his letter, effectively summarizes the hope of all those who are committed to fair housing: "I am confident that Denver and Colorado will continue to lead the way in bringing about full equality of opportunity in housing for all our citizens."

* * * * *

Opportunity to get a job doesn't mean much for a person not qualified to hold it; the free right to vote doesn't mean much to the citizen who doesn't know or care who is running; the right to enjoy public accommodations helps very little the person who doesn't have the price of admission; the right to live in a decent house or neighborhood gives little aid to the man who can't buy or pay the rent for such a house.

--- Leroy Collins
June 11, 1965

A politician thinks of the next election; a statesman, of the next generation.

--- James Freeman Clarke

COMMISSION STAFF MEMBER ATTENDS NCDH NEW YORK CONFERENCE

Civil Rights Specialist Warren D. Alexander has, among other civic activities, been engaged in plans to establish a Fair Housing Center for Metropolitan Denver. Alexander, who was named last August as Chairman of the Citizens Volunteer Steering Committee, has been working with many other interested and dedicated citizens, on a purely volunteer basis, to achieve open-occupancy and a truly democratic distribution of all racial groups throughout the Denver area -- and ultimately, the entire State of Colorado.

The dreams of these planners were realized when, on January 15th, the Metro Fair Housing Center opened its doors, in downtown Denver, in space donated by the Religious Council on Human Relations for Metropolitan Denver.

Early in the planning stages, the efforts of these citizens came to the attention of officials of the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing (NCDH) in New York City. NCDH Executive Director Edward Rutledge and Associate Executive Director Jack Wood made several visits to the Mile-High City to share their concern and expertise with the Denverites.

Following the opening of the Center, four of the planners were invited to come to New York to participate in a planning session for a National Conference on Housing involving Community Action Program Directors, to be convened this spring by NCDH. The Denverites attending the New York meeting, in addition to Alexander were Mrs. Bea Branscombe, of the Park Hill Action Committee; Mrs. Mary Chavez, Staff Member, Denver's War on Poverty; and Attorney Richard Young, Board Member, Denver Commission on Community Relations.

Denver was one of four cities invited to attend the New York meeting. The other cities were Providence, Rhode Island; Rochester, New York; and Atlanta Georgia. Each of these cities was selected by Rutledge and Wood because of the differences in their housing problems, and the methods employed in solving these problems. The Denverites declared that, "We believe Denver was selected because of the progress made by the Metro Fair Housing Center planners, and our strong Colorado Fair Housing Law."

The Denver group participated fully in the one-day session, which was noteworthy for its high degree of enthusiasm, as displayed by the participants.

The aim of the NCDH National Housing Conference this spring is to help cities map plans, through their Community Action Program Directors, to ultimately eliminate the ghetto. Denver's start toward this goal is considered as being in the forefront, since Colorado's Fair Housing Law is one of the most effective such laws in the United States.

COMMISSION INVOLVED IN PUBLIC HEARINGS

In conformance with requirements set down by the General Assembly to thoroughly and completely investigate, and bring about solutions to all complaints received, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission ushered in the New Year by carrying three separate cases to public hearings. In addition, one case, heard in a public hearing last year, was the subject of District Court action while still yet another case, rescheduled from earlier this year will be heard within the near future in Denver District Court. There follows a brief synopsis of each of these cases:

Alfonso Martinez vs. Runyon Field Committee

Mr. Alfonso Martinez filed an employment complaint against the Runyon Field Committee, the sponsoring agency for the Neighborhood Youth Corps Program in Pueblo, Colorado, alleging discriminatory practices in hiring practices. After making a finding of probable cause, and following the inability to effect a conciliatory conclusion, the Commission Director recommended the case be set down for public hearing, which was held in Pueblo on February 19th. Hearing Examiner was Commissioner Gerald M. Quiat of Denver. Commissioners hearing the case were Max Torres, Trinidad; Connie Sisneros, and Lawrence Lee, both of Denver.

Following an extensive hearing, the Commission ruled that there was no evidence of discrimination based on the Complainant's national ancestry (Spanish-American), and the case was dismissed. In making the ruling however, the Commissioners severely criticized the manner in which the Respondents' hiring practices were administered, the fact that hiring was not effected on a competitive basis, and that the positions were filled by the same persons who initiated the program. Since no outside applications were ever considered for the position in question, race or national ancestry was therefore not a factor in the failure of the Complainant to secure a position on the Respondents' staff.

George L. and Rosemary Brown vs. Roger M. Sperte, d/b/a Sperte's Laffite Restaurant

This was a Public Accommodations case, in which the Complainants, State Senator and Mrs. George L. Brown, alleged they were denied service at a place of public accommodation, Laffite Restaurant, owned and operated by the Respondent. The Complainants alleged that, although they had reservations, they were kept waiting for more than an hour, while others were seated ahead of them, some of whom had no reservations, and all of whom were white.

PUBLIC HEARINGS (CON'T.)

On March 5, 1966, Chairman Dora Piccoli of Durango, Colorado, conducted a public hearing in Denver, with Commissioner Gerald M. Quiat as Hearing Examiner. Commissioners Willie Anthony and Lawrence Lee, both of Denver, completed the hearing panel. After hearing testimony and examining exhibits, the Commissioners ruled that the Respondent had committed a discriminatory act, and ordered that he cease and desist from any and all discriminatory acts, and further, that the Complainants shall be entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the Respondent's restaurant.

Because of the prominence and popularity of the Complainant, wide spread publicity was given the hearing, and its findings, with large scale television and press coverage being afforded the nearly all-day hearing.

Lafayette Walker vs. Vincent Fearheiley

This case was set for public hearing before the Commissioners on March 11, 1966, in Pueblo, Colorado. Commissioner Lawrence Lee was Hearing Examiner, while Commissioners Willie Anthony, Max Torres, and Rabbi Nathaniel Pollack of Pueblo, constituted the remainder of the panel.

Involved was a housing complaint, in which the Complainant alleged that he was being evicted from his place of residence, owned by the Respondent, because of his (Complainant) Race, Negro. Immediately following the filing of the complaint with the CCRC, the Respondent attempted to initiate eviction proceedings against the Complainant; whereupon, the Commission entered an injunction suit in the Pueblo District Court, on January 13, 1966. This resulted in the Court entering a 60-day injunction prohibiting the Respondent from interfering with the tenancy of the Complainant. This was the first injunction obtained by the Commission under a 1965 amendment to the Colorado Fair Housing Act of 1959 enacted by the General Assembly granting injunctive powers to the Commission.

It was revealed that the Complainant was ordered by the Respondent to vacate the house he had rented, the day after he had moved in, with the reason being given that the Respondent wanted to sell the house, in addition to which, the neighbors (white) were complaining because of the Complainant's race.

Following a day long hearing, the Commissioners ruled that the Respondent had engaged in unfair housing practices, as defined in the Colorado Fair Housing Act, and had thereby discriminated against the Complainant. Written orders will be made by the Commission at a later date, however, the Respondent has been prohibited from interfering with the tenancy of the Complainant.

PUBLIC HEARINGS (CON'T.)

Richard Jarrett vs. Nicholas and Mary Fontecchio

This housing complaint had been heard by the Commissioners in a public hearing on March 20, 1965, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. At that hearing, the Commissioners found that discrimination had been practiced by the Respondents, in their refusal to rent an apartment to Complainant Jarrett, Negro. The Commissioners therefore ordered that the Complainant be given an opportunity to rent the apartment which was denied him, and, if the same apartment was not available, the Respondents were to make a similar apartment available.

The Respondents appealed the findings of the Commission to the Colorado Springs District Court, and on February 1, 1966, the Court upheld the findings of the Commission by ruling that the apartment in question be rented to the Complainant. The Court further ruled however, that so much of the Commission's Order requiring the Respondents to offer a similar apartment to the Complainant was beyond its powers, and was, in this respect, overruled.

Margarito Franco vs. Denver Fire Department, et al

Mr. Franco filed a complaint with the Commission, in which he alleged that he was discriminated against in matters of employment. Franco, who is of Spanish-American ancestry, contended that he was not promoted to a higher position within the Denver Fire Department, because of his ancestry. Later, after having filed his complaint with the Commission, he was dismissed from his job for having filed the complaint.

The CCRC set the case down for a public hearing on January 28, 1966. Just three days prior to the hearing, on January 25th, the District Court issued a Writ of Prohibition, on application from the Denver City Attorney's office. This Writ restrained the Commission from holding any further proceedings in the case until the matter could be heard by the District Court, at which time the Writ of Prohibition would either be dismissed, or made permanent.

The City Attorney claimed that the Commission does not have jurisdiction over the City of Denver and that the subject matter of the case was presently being heard by the District Court on an appeal to the District of a ruling by the Denver Civil Service Commission ordering the Fire Department to reinstate Mr. Franco.

PUBLIC HEARINGS (CON'T.)

Following the District Court's issuance of its Writ, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission initiated an Original Proceeding in the Colorado State Supreme Court, on the grounds that the District Court was without jurisdiction in entering its order. The Supreme Court denied the plea of the Commission's Attorney as contained in the Original Proceeding. The matter was argued in District Court on April 4, 1966 and the Court's decision was that the matter of discrimination is of statewide concern and that the Commission therefore has jurisdiction over the municipality -- and ordered that the Commission could proceed with its hearing.



Shown above, left to right: Ben Segal, James F. Reynolds, and Herrick Roth.

Mr. Ben Segal, Director of Compliance, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, D.C., recently addressed a luncheon meeting sponsored jointly by the Colorado Labor Council, Herrick Roth, Chairman, and the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, James F. Reynolds, Director. Business and Labor leaders of Denver heard Mr. Segal explain the mission and the scope of EEOC.

PUBLIC HEARINGS (CONT.)

Following the District Court's issuance of its writ, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission initiated an Original Proceeding in the Colorado State Supreme Court, on the grounds that the District Court was without jurisdiction in entering its order. The Supreme Court denied the writ of the Commission's Attorney General in the Original Proceeding. The matter was argued in District Court on April 1, 1968 and the Court's decision was that the matter of jurisdiction is of statewide concern and that the Commission's Attorney General was not the proper party to bring the matter before the District Court. The Commission's Attorney General was ordered to file a new writ of habeas corpus in the District Court.

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