

REG 9/10.10/1967/1

c-1

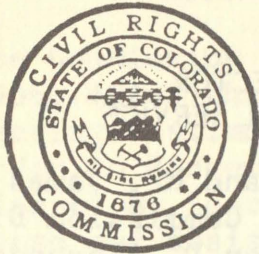
COLORADO STATE PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY



3 1799 00133 4457

JAN 31 1967

GOVERNMENT
DOCUMENTS DIVISION
University of Colorado Libraries



CIVIL RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

COLORADO CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

306 State Services Building
Denver 3, Colorado

January 1967

1525 Sherman Street
AComa 2-9911 Ext. 2621



The Commission held its Annual election of the Chairman in September. Succeeding Mrs. Dora Piccoli, who has been Chairman since July 1963, is Mr. Gerald M. Quiat.

Mr. Quiat has been a practicing attorney in Denver for the past 18 years. He is a partner in the law firm of Quiat, Seeman and Quiat. As a practicing trial lawyer, Mr. Quiat has served as hearing officer for the Commission. He received his law degree from the University of Denver and was formerly a Denver Deputy District Attorney.

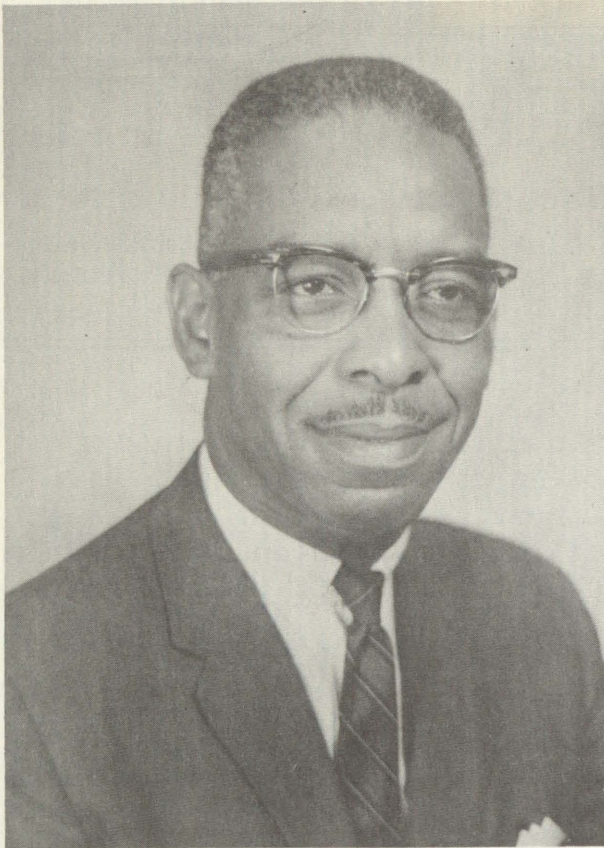
Mr. Quiat has many civic interests. He is a member of the Colorado and American Bar Association, the Colorado and National

Trial Lawyers Association; he is a member of the Board of Managers of the Metropolitan YMCA, Chairman of the Physical Education Department of the Metro YMCA.

In World War II he was a combat infantryman, and in 1955 he served as Commander of the American Legion Post #1. He still maintains an active interest and participation in American Legion affairs.

Mr. Quiat is married and resides with his family at 5220 E. 6th Avenue.

In his spare time Mr. Quiat hunts, fishes, and actively participates in the YMCA physical fitness program.



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
APPOINTED VIA CIVIL SERVICE

Governor John A. Love and Mr. James F. Reynolds, Civil Rights Commission Director, appointed Warren D. Alexander to the position of Assistant Director of the Commission. Mr. Alexander has been a professional staff member of the Commission for the past nineteen months. Mr. Alexander joined the Commission after retiring from the Air Force as a Major. Mr. Alexander is a native of San Antonio, Texas and is a graduate of the University of Omaha, Nebraska.

In addition, Mr. Alexander has done graduate work in theology and is an ordained Methodist minister.

He has been active in civic affairs as President of the Northeast Park Hill Civic Association in Denver; an NAACP member; an active member of the Park Hill Methodist Church; and Chairman of the steering committee which established the Metro Fair Housing Center.

He brings to his new position a wealth of experience and knowledge of human relations as an Air Force officer and as a minister. Mr. Alexander, married and the father of three children, resides in Northeast Denver.

HEARINGS INCREASE

The Commission has had a surge of activity in the area of public hearings.

After 15 days of hearing, 43 witnesses and 1700 pages of transcript the Commission found that the Fire Department and the City and County of Denver discriminated against

Margarito Franco, a fireman, who complained to the Commission of discriminatory treatment and was subsequently discharged. The Commission ordered the Fire Department to restore Mr. Franco to duty and give him back pay from the date of his discharge, June 3, 1965.

HOUSING HEARING

The Commission on October 26, 1966, after three days of hearing testimony, issued an order to Ridgewood Realty, Michael A. Leprino, et. al. to cease and desist from discriminating against Vincent Warner and to sell him the house which he had entered into a contract with Ridgewood Realty to buy.

Keys and a membership card to the country club had been issued to the Warners, and there was no problem with the sale until it was discovered that Mr. Warner was a Negro. All previous arrangements had been made by Mrs. Warner, who is not a Negro. When the Warners began to move into the house which they had newly purchased, Ridgewood Realty Homes began to invent excuses as to why they could not have the house. As excuse after excuse was proved false, the final one given was Mr. Leprino's anger over the intrusion of the Civil Rights Commission into his affairs.

A NEEDED TOOL

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission has found that its injunctive powers is an effective tool in making the Fair Housing Law meaningful. On three occasions since the injunction was added to the law, the Commission, upon discovering that the owner of housing or land about which a complaint had been filed was attempting to dispose of

the property, has obtained an injunction that kept the property available until a hearing could be held. The Commission was denounced in the past by minority people because complaints filed were rather meaningless since before a hearing could be held the house was rented or sold. A cease and desist order does little to assuage the wounded feelings of the complainant or deter discriminators either for that matter. Making the house available, in fact, goes a long way toward enhancing the Commission's reputation in the minority community and increasing its respect in the majority community.

ASSIGNMENT

Miss Ruth Steiner, formerly Acting Assistant Director, has been assigned the duties and responsibilities of Director of the Conciliation and Compliance Division. Miss Steiner brings to this position a wealth of experience. She has been with the Commission for three and a half years working in housing, employment, and directing the regulatory work of the Commission as Acting Assistant Director for one year. Prior to coming to work for the Commission, Ruth was housing chairman for CORE. She served in Mississippi on two occasions with the Mississippi summer project.

A NEW TWIST TO A MYTH

Mr. Gerald M. Quiat, Chairman of the Commission, was invited to Topeka, Kansas to appear before a Public Hearing held by the Kansas Legislative Council on a proposed fair housing law.

The real estate interests were there to contend that a fair housing law would cause a massive change in title and property handling procedures. Mr. Quiat was able to refute these claims on the basis of his experiences that no such changes took place in Colorado.

GOVERNOR LOVE GIVES BOOST TO FAIR HOUSING

Governor John A. Love recently entered into a contract with the Metro Denver Fair Housing Center to provide to the Civil Rights Commission information about the effectiveness of the State Fair Housing Law. The contract gave to the Center \$10,000 to support the work of the Commission by disseminating information and distributing literature, pamphlets, brochures, etc. and compiling a report on the impact, if any, of the Fair Housing Law on the community. Mrs. Janet Fredericks, a well-known former real estate salesman is the temporary director of the Center, and Mr. Richard (Dick) Young, an attorney and member of the Denver Commission on Community Relations, is chairman of the Fair Housing Center Governing Board. Mrs. Fredericks, in a statement to the Commission at its last meeting said, "based on the number of minority families we have assisted in finding housing in other than traditional areas over the past three months, it is our estimate that 1400 minority families have moved out of the 'ghetto' areas into other parts of the city".

Prior to the amended fair housing law of 1965 very few minority people had been able to overcome the frustrations caused by discriminatory practices in seeking a house outside the traditional area. The study at the end of the year is designed to ascertain if any changes have in fact occurred.

COMMISSION ENTERTAINS

The Commission played host to seven African students in August. The students, all from different countries, were interested in Civil Rights in Colorado. To make for a pleasant evening the Commissioners and staff met at the home of J. David Penwell, Assistant Attorney General on duty with the Commission.

While dining on excellent food prepared by Mrs. Penwell (Rose Ann), the topic of Civil Rights was thoroughly explored. Some of the discussion had to be carried on through an interpreter.

The African students were very pleased at the interesting way the Commission briefed them.

"BLACK POWER"

A great deal has been written of late about "Black Power." The term has somehow been given an ominous connotation, a threat of violence. Yet, to the thoughtful person, no group can have a voice in its own destiny without power of some sort, be it economic, political or otherwise. The Negro who is seeking dignity and the right to be a part of life in the United States must find a source of power, or his destiny and citizenship will only be a gift or a loan to be snatched away at the whim of his

white benefactors. "Black Power" was a term applied to that period during the Reconstruction when Negroes voted freely and participated in public life, more or less unhindered because they did have some political (black) power. Stokley Carmichael, in looking for ways to arouse the excluded Negro and to get him to stake a claim in the determination of his own destiny, hit upon this reconstruction term. The newspapers have publicized the term to the consternation of Roy Wilkins and the detriment of Civil Rights. While more than a slogan is needed to develop power, the same is not true to arouse ire. It would appear that Carmichael has only aroused ire, as he has presented no specific program to secure black power. If he has a program he has not yet mentioned it. To the degree that a black power slogan has been associated with rioting and destruction, it has been detrimental. Whatever value the slogan may have had in seeking the involvement of Negroes has been off-set by the negative feeling it has given the rest of the country. Be it resolved that one program is worth a thousand slogans.

ARRESTS NO BAR TO EMPLOYMENT

The Federal Civil Service has announced a new policy in its hiring of people with records of arrests and convictions. Mr. John W. Macy, Jr., Chairman, U. S. Civil Service Commission, said "no longer will we categorically refuse to hire people with

records. But we will examine the conviction, and where the offense has no relevancy to the job we will hire the person. Each case will be determined individually."

We hope that this policy will spread. A person should not have to pay for the rest of his life for a mistake made in his youth.

The refusal by many companies to hire because of a previous arrest (not conviction) has been very harmful to minority people. Living in areas of high police patrol activity has caused many youths from minority groups to be arrested for investigation and later released without a charge. These arrests are released by the police to potential employers who inquire and employment is refused because the applicant has a police record. If this is not discrimination, it is certainly one of the handicaps now carried by a person who is born the wrong color or has a foreign sounding last name and who lives in the wrong part of town.

DISCRIMINATION IN TESTING

No Negro has ever been promoted above the rank of patrolman in the city of Denver; most minority-group people employed by the State are grouped at grade seven (7) and below, while the average for all employees is grade 12. What are the reasons for some of these problems?

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission and the Denver Commission on Community Relations invited the personnel directors of governmental agencies to a meeting to discuss the question of whether or not discrimination has

been built into the testing program for job applicants and promotions. If so, what should be done about it?

It was decided to submit a proposal to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for an occupational validity study of the tests used for specific jobs.

COMMISSION MOURNS DEATH OF RABBI SAMUEL ADELMAN

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission, including the Commissioners and entire staff, joins the Jewish Community of Denver, as well as the citizens of Metropolitan Denver in mourning the sudden death of Rabbi Samuel Adelman.

Rabbi Adelman, who reached his 50th birthday, just two months ago, was the spiritual leader of Beth Ha Nidrash Hagodal Congregation, to which he came in 1957. He was not only a brilliant speaker, writer, and poet, but he was a driving force behind the struggle of minority groups in their quest for equality and dignity.

His was a never ending, sincere, and meaningful voice crying in the wilderness of these times of "white-backlash", discriminatory and differential treatment of the downtrodden. Possessed with boundless energy, coupled with a genuine concern for all people, he went about the community, speaking and acting in behalf of the mentally retarded, the aged, Negroes, Spanish-Americans, Jews and all who

needed a strong voice and a steady hand to lead them out of the morass of confusion, frustration, and discrimination.

He was a real friend of the Civil Rights Commission, and the causes it espouses. As President of the Metropolitan Denver Council for Human Relations, he was greatly instrumental in the establishment of the Metro Denver Fair Housing Center. His constant vigilance in the area of suitable and fair housing was evidenced by his consistent activities as Vice-Chairman of the Denver Housing Authority.

The many areas of his activities are too numerous to mention here. It is sufficient only to say that a great leader and true friend has fallen. He shall be sorely missed.

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD MADE TO IBM

Over two hundred persons attended the Commission's Second Annual Human Relations Award Dinner, Saturday, November 26, 1966. The award was presented to International Business Machine Corporation - Boulder for its aggressive recruiting, hiring, training and promotion of minority people. Clarence Mitchell, Director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP presented the principal address entitled "How Do We Program Civil Rights for the 1967 Computer?" Copies of his speech are available upon request.

Mr. Sheldon Steinhauser, Director of the Anti-defamation League of B'nai B'rith and recipient of the First Human Relations Award, acted as Master of Ceremonies.

FORMER COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN CITED

Mrs. Dora Piccoli of Durango, Colorado was honored at the Second Annual Human Relations Award Dinner on November 26, 1966, for distinguished service over the past three years as Chairman of the Civil Rights Commission.

The presentation was made by Mrs. Armando Sisneros, Commissioner from Denver.

In her presentation, Mrs. Sisneros pointed out some of the following highlights of a long and distinguished career which led to the presentation of this award.

Mrs. Piccoli is a native New Yorker, having come to Colorado some 18 years ago and settling in Durango, in the southwestern part of the state. Prior to her appointment as a Commissioner of the then Anti-discrimination Commission by former Governor Steve McNichols, Mrs. Piccoli was chairman of the Human Relations Committee of the Republican Party of the state of Colorado for two years. Some of Mrs. Piccoli's pursuits in civic affairs includes her being the chairman of the La Plata County Community Action Program, Inc. which embraces a number of organizations including Santa Rita Neighborhood House Committee, which is now attempting to obtain a housing survey in La Plata County to determine the kinds and types of programs that are available in the county to the disadvantaged residents for better housing. She served for some time

as Vice-Chairman of the Fourth Congressional District of the Republican Party, and has also served for a period of six years as Vice-Chairman of the La Plata County Republican Committee. She is a former member of the National Secretaries Association and Business and Professional Women's Association and for the past nine years has been associated with two leading oil companies and presently is administrative secretary for the Tidewater Oil Company.

In addition Mrs. Piccoli was interviewed for possible nomination in "Who's Who in American Women?"

Possessed with a keen insight into the area of human relations, Mrs. Piccoli has been an articulate spokesman for the attainment of equality of opportunity for all Colorado citizens. As a result of her chairmanship with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission she has gained prominence throughout the country as being the motivating force behind the excellent results obtained by the Commission. She has labored diligently, oftentimes at great personal sacrifice, to insure that equality of opportunity is provided for all of Colorado's citizens.

Coloradoans everywhere consider themselves fortunate to have been benefited by the services of this very able chairman and civic-minded citizen, and all citizens join together in expressing their appreciation to her for the very fine services that she has rendered to the Columbine state.

Mrs. Piccoli will continue to serve as a Commissioner on the Colorado Civil Rights Commission.

CIVIL RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

Colorado Civil Rights Commission
306 State Services Building
Denver, Colorado 80203

Ellen Jackson
Gov't Documents Div.
Univ. of Colo. Libraries
Boulder, Colo. 80304

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Denver, Colo.
Permit No. 519

STATE PUBLICATIONS
SEP 09 1998
Colorado State Library
RECEIVED