Lengthy memorandum cites MCHR failures

A confidentian study has been conducted of the Public Hearing process at the Maryland Commission On Human Relations, The study shows that the Agency's former general counsel Philip Tierney' failed to take cases to public hearing and implies that the agency's 12-member Commission refused to direct Tierney to process the cases. The result has been the building of a massive backlog at the hearing stage with almost no hearings being held.

The members of the Commission are, Jacob J. Edelman, chairman, Baltimore City; James Fletcher Jr., vice chairman, Prince Georges County; Mrs. Lane K. Berk, Baltimore County; Alvin L. Blank, Baltimore County; Stephen J. Britz Anne Arundel County; Miss Linda Golden, Allegany County and the Rev. Daniel Green, Baltimore City.

Also, Leonard Jackson Sr., Charles County; the Rev. Erneset A. Lyte, Eastern Shore; Jo Carville Robinson, Eastern Shore; Lester Wallace, Baltimore City and Mrs. Muriel Weidenfeld, Prince Goerges County.

Fletcher, the Rev. Mrs. Green, Jackson, the Rev. Mr. Lyte and Wallace are the Black members of the Commission.

* * *

The 20 page memorandum shows that during the last year MCHR staff investigated over 500 cases but for those forwarded to the General Counsel and Commissioners only seven cases were scheduled for hearing, and of those only three decisions were issued. There are presently 260 cases waiting to be heard by the Commissioners.

The Commission's Executive Director' Elbert Gullory who issued the Memorandum, stated that, "Unemotional analysis ofo the facts and statistics indicates that fewer hearings are being held, more cases are being dismissed at hearing, and the already massive hearing backlog is growing larger. This of MCHR's administrative process has completely broken down."

The Memo makes clear that the Agency's lawyer and Commissioners are not keeping pace with the staff which has developed a national reputation for efficiency and productivity.

Commission Chairman Jacob J. Edelman said, "I'm not unmindful of the fact that we have a tremendous backlog." He added that since Commissioners are not paid, they have little "incentive" to travel miles for what might turn out to be days-long hearings.

The Study Recommends:

(1) Seeking legislation which would permit MCHR to hire full time, professional hearing examiners to hold the hearings;

(2) Training for the Commissioners;

(3) Greater attention to the selection of a new lawyer to replace the one who just resigned under fire:

(4) Proper administration of the public hearing stage of processing, and

(5) Periodic reassessments to make sure that the problem never becomes as great again.

* * *

Dennis Schatzman, MCHR public relations officer, said that the impact on staff morale by the General Counsel's and commissioners' performance has been "debilitating."

He told the AFRO, "You can imagine how an investigator feels when he or she puts in a lot of time investigating or conciliating a case and then sees that case sit and sit for years in the public hearing backlog."

When asked why the commissioners refused to require the recently departed General Councel to do his job. Guillory responded, "I don't know about it because we discussed it frequently, but I don't want to get into pointing fingers. I just want this Agency to be totally aggressive and efficient in its protection of minority rights. Clearing up the problems at Hearing stage would help."

* * *

Public interest concerning the commissioners and their relationship to Guillory has grown ever since May 6 when they refused the executive director the right to present cases for public hearing.

Guillory, an attorney, offered to help quicken the hearing process "because the attorney whose responsibility to do so has not done his job and this process would insure that the job gets done."

On two previous occasions the Commission had authorized Guillory or his designee to present cases.

At the recent decision, he remarked, "I cannot understand why the Commission, on two separate occasions, approved that I would do the work then suddenly decided that they don't want it done.

"Frankly I thought that they would have jumped at the opportunity to see the work performed."

The black executive director noted that the decision was made despite a spiraling backlog of cases awaiting public hearing which may not be heard until the year 2000.

N. Baltimore center holds flea market

A Flea Market and White Elephant Sale will be held Friday and Saturday, June 18 and 19, at the North Baltimore Center, Inc.

The Center is located at 22rd and St. Paul Sts.; the hours of the sale are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days.

Proceeds will benefit the activities of the community mental health services. Donations of articles, household items, clothing, etc. are welcome. Contact Mary Cole or Barbara Banks, 366-6360 for further information.

NEW YORK — The 1976 Holcombe Rucker—ITT summer basketball league opens its season on June 25 for some 1300 to 1400 youngsters who will participate this year in this most popular of New York cage tournaments.

TWO GENERATIONS—Mrs. Delnora Robertson and her daughter, Paula, each recently received her degree in Special Education from Coppin State College. Mrs. Robertson, who completed all her Master's degree requirements, is a teacher in the city schools and active in the mayor's program of the Baltimore Summer Corps. as a district supervisor. Miss Robertson, the recipient of a B.S. degree, is a graduate of Western High School and a former employe of the Summer Corps.

MS. JERLYS BOWIE, 23, who now holds a graduate degree in Urban Recreation from the University of Baltimore, goes over some figures with Professor Ralph Jones, director of the progam. Ms. Bowie was the first graduate student at the university to complete all graduate requirements in the field. She holds a B. A. degree in Sociology and a Master's of Science degree.

Summer Bus Schedules in effect June 20.

No. 6 Trips added through South Baltimore General Hospital
No. 11 Trips added to Morrell Park Bus Loop
No. 22 Trips added to City Hospital
No. 28 Baltimore Highlands Service restored
No. 77 Temporarily discontinued for college summer vacation

For complete information and timetables of interest to you call 539-5000 or write: MTA • 109 E. Redwood Street / Baltimore, Md. 21202

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Housing discrimination: next step for Civil Rights

By David E. Anderson

WASHINGTON (UPI) — In 1974, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights issued a report charging that white suburbanization is creating a situation of increased racial separation and polarization.

Two years later, according to Civil Rights groups, the situation has not changed any for the better but rights lawyers believe they may now have the means to challenge in the courts discriminatory suburban housing.

* * *

Indeed, housing could turn out to be the crucial Civil Rights issue of the last half of the decade because other issues — like school desegregation and busing — hinge on it.

If heretofore segregated suburbs were opened up for black families, for example, it would alleviate the need for busing to achieve racial integration.

Rights groups point to three recent court decisions that the believe will provide the precedents for a sustained challenge to segregated housing.

* * *

The cases are a Supreme Court decision involving Chicago and two New Jersey cases, the latter which struck down local zoning ordinances prohibiting low and moderate income housing.

Although the New Jersey decisions affect only that state, rights lawyers will use them in other suits with the hope that other state courts will find their arguments persuasive.

In the Chicago case, the Supreme Court held that black Chicago residents, confined to subsidized inner city housing because of discriminatory practices supported in part by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, are entitled to court-ordered remedies that would extend outside the city to include six counties.

* * *

The court said that the "relevant" geographic area for blacks seeking housing was not the Chicago city limits but the "Chicago housing market" and that HUD, because it operates in housing markets and not just within the city limits should attempt to foster low income housing projects throughout the market.

The impact of the Chicago decisionmay be limited — the court said it did not intend that housing projects could be forced on localities that do not want them — but it provides an important precedent for rights groups seeking metropolitan-wide relief in areas of discrimination.

With those cases behind them, rights groups have started to move in another field of housing discrimination — regulation of the home mortgage lending institutions which in 1974 handled $310 billion in residential mortgage loans.

* * *

In late April, a coalition of 10 Civil Rights, religious and civil groups filed a suit against the four federal agencies which regulate the industry charging them with failing to carry out their responsibilities to prevent race and sex discrimination in home mortgage lending.

The suit charges the regulated institutions refuse to make loans to minorities to purchase homes in white areas, refuse to lend in racially integrated areas because of the racial composition and use loan criteria that have on minorities and women.

The federal agencies — Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Federal Reserve Board, federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board — have failed to end these practices even though it is within their power to do so, the suit charges.

None of those involved, however, believes that ending residential segregation will be achieved easily. The court cases are only the first step in a long march.

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

ONE OF THE 13 black persons working out of the Baltimore bureau of the FBI. Officials at the bureau state they are desperately trying to recruit black men and women into the bureau especially those with degrees in Law or Accounting or those with three years professional experience.

Pastors urge passage of rent control bill

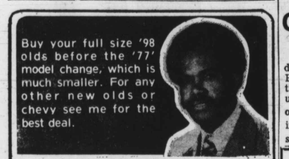
At its meeting Wednesday at the New Antioch Baptist Church, the Baptist Pastor's Conference urgently endorsed passage of the Rent Control Bill introduced by Councilpersons Clarke, Mikulski, Della, Murphy and Myers on May 17 to take effect when the present Rent Control is scheduled to expire on June 30.

In a letter signed by Dr. Julian Price, president, the pastors called for enactment of Rent Control as "the only safeguard for the poor people of Baltimore who are not able to own their own homes.

"Experience has shown us that greedy landlords will continue to increase rent without doing the necessary maintenance which good judgement would require."

The ministers reasoned, "By making increases over 4 per cent contingent upon proof of essential maintenance and upkeep, the landlord — to preserve his own source of income — will be forced to make these normal improvements which can be so easily neglected."

They pointed out that rent control would not work a hardship on any landlord except those who desire to increase their own income by neglect of upkeep.



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CORRECTION
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MONTGOMERY WARD

South Baltimore forms hospital support group

Concerned South Baltimore communities have joined together with the South Baltimore General Hospital Board of Directors to establish a Community-Trustee Liaison Committee.

The purpose of the committee is to serve the community by keeping S.B.G.H.'s Board abreast of the communities' health care needs while working toward a common goal of acceptability by all groups."

* * *

In opening its doors to what the hospital hopes will be productive and beneficial community communications program, S.B.G.H. is asking its service area community groups to appoint representatives who will in turn report any problems, recommen changes or request, brought to their attention, to a designated trustee responsible for that area.

"South Baltimore his historically maintained a great concern for the community-hospital concept," says Mr. Funkey. "In today's complicated and regulatory word, however, the communities seem to be losing touch with their hospitals.

* * *

"We tope through the establishfent of this new committee idea we can assure the S.B.G.H. communities that this is their hospital and is ready to serve their needs," says Mr. Funkey.

Community representatives appointed to the S.B.G.H. Community-Trustee Liaison Committee include Richard Bronson, Brooklyn; Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Poe, Mrs. Michael Ihnat and Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Scott, Curtis Bay; and Marion Butler, Mrs. Gwendolyn Johnson and Clarence Mollette, Cherry Hill.

* * *

Also appointed are Walter H. Hill, Sr., Mount Winans; and Mrs. Carol Chrissinger, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Lowe, Ms. Margaret Suiter and Charles Wolff from South Baltimore.

Hospital Board representatives include Carlton E. Smith, Chairman; Sheppard H. Burge, Raymond V. Haysbert, Mrs. Laura MacDonald and Charles F. Obrecht, Jr.

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