

TRAILER PARKS

Through an inquiry by the Mayor, the Commission was asked to investigate the situation regarding the difficulty of Negroes attempting to rent space in Atlanta trailer parks. Two Negro families, Mr. and Mrs. Frame and Mr. and Mrs. Wheat, have attempted to rent places to park their trailers and have been unable to find any trailer park in Atlanta that will rent to them. Mr. Frame, an Army veteran, is presently employed with a local paper company, and Mr. Wheat is now on active duty with the U. S. Army. Both families believe that they are being denied access to the trailer parks because they are Negro. They related several instances in which they had called parks, been told that there was a vacancy, and upon arriving at the park been told that the vacancy had just been filled. Several parks had allowed the families to fill out application forms but, from all indications, these applications were never given any serious consideration.

The staff of the Community Relations Commission has been able to gain the following information in regards to this issue:

1. The District Attorney's office has informed us that trailer parks are not covered under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. At present, certain agencies have written to Washington in an attempt to find out if trailer parks within a 3½ mile radius of Ft. McPherson are included in Secretary McNamara's recent Federal Order concerning military housing.
2. A number of organizations in Atlanta have worked with the Frames and the Wheats in attempting to get them located in a trailer park. These include the Red Cross, The NAACP, and certain military personnel at Ft. McPherson. The Reverend Amos Holmes of the NAACP stated that he had personally contacted 24 different trailer parks for Mr. and Mrs. Wheat, but was unable to find one that would accept a Negro family. Only 2 of the 24 were willing to let the Wheats fill out an application. None of the trailer parks contacted, including those in predominately Negro neighborhoods, had any Negroes in residence.
3. Most of the trailer park owners claim that they are filled to capacity and thus unable to provide accommodations for any new applicants, either Negro or white. A survey of some of the trailer parks on Stewart

Avenue showed that there were some vacant spaces in these parks.

One owner stated that the vacant spaces in his park "were reserved for people who bought trailers from him".

4. A small group of trailer park owners have expressed their willingness to meet with the Mayor, Board of Aldermen, or the Zoning Commission to discuss the problem of zoning in regards to the building of new trailer parks. They claim that present zoning restrictions have made it almost impossible to construct any new trailer parks in Atlanta. They also said that if zoning regulations could be changed, they would be willing to build a new trailer park which would uphold a policy of open occupancy.

In conclusion, we can simply say that presently, there is no Negro living in any trailer park in Atlanta. Mr. and Mrs. Frame have spent two years looking for rental space in any Atlanta trailer park and have been unsuccessful in all of their attempts. Both the Frames and the Wheats feel that the trailer parks are discriminating against them on racial grounds and both are looking for any sort of solution in the near future that will remedy their housing problem.