

April 8, 1967

The Georgia State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights met at 9:30 on Saturday, April 8, in the Old Post-Office Building. Nine or ten spectators were present with fourteen members of the Council sitting. Rev. Oscar McCloud acted as Chairman in the absence of Dr. Vivian Henderson, President of Clark College, who was investigating a "sleep out" at his school. It seems the students of Clark College protesting the absence of adequate police protection decided to sleep on Clark College's lawn, saying it was safer there.

First panel: Rev. Andrew Young--S.C.L.C.; Mr. Jac Hendricks--Georgia Council on Human Relations; Rev. Amos Holmes--N.A.A.C.P.; Mrs. Clayton--Director of Housing for American Friends Service Committee; Mr. Collinson--Employment, American Friends Service Committee.

Testimony--Rev. Andrew Young--Ghetto and density are synonymous, there are separate application offices for Negro and white applicants for public housing in Atlanta. There is subtle discrimination. He urged fair housing and open occupancy.

Testimony--Mr. Joe Hendricks--Urged true desegregation of public housing, easing of harsh regulations that impede the poor. There is de-facto segregation in new housing. White housing is cheaper, in (Negro) Collier Heights a \$20,000 home would be \$16,000 or \$17,000 in Buckhead. Negroes pay a larger proportion of their income for rent than whites.

Testimony--Rev. Amos Holmes, Vice President, Atlanta N.A.A.C.P.--There are 50% of Negroes living on \$3000 incomes. 9,800 housing units are needed by December to house displaced Negroes. 43% of the total population is Negro, using only 20% of the land. The N.A.A.C.P. has a suit pending to withhold funds to model cities until people in affected areas are on planning board and consulted on plans, and there is an absence of discrimination.

Page Two

Testimony--Mrs. Clayton-- The myth is being exploded that property values go down when Negroes move in. Mrs. Clayton testified that in the Cascade (SW) area an attempt is being made to educate and change attitudes. She found that there is a dual market, white realtors, wanting to sell only to Negroes, put their "ads" in Negro papers. Jobs are limited because of failure to obtain convenient housing. Advocates open housing, open occupancy.

Testimony--Mr. Collinson, Recreation-- Urged open housing, open occupancy. Applicants for jobs in Doraville, Chamblee, etc. have real difficulty getting to jobs. Planned recreation is difficult because of prejudice especially in swimming.

Rev. Andrew Young of Southern Christian Leadership Conference asked to be heard on Model Cities he testified: In Summer Hill Model cities he considered that there was no citizens' participation because no policy makers on the board are area people. High class motels and hotels are replacing residential areas i.e. Marriot Hotel, etc. There should be a humane pattern of re-location. There exists segregation by class. Concerned citizens can not get information about model cities. 221-D-3 housing should be non-profit.

Mrs. Stanley of Greater Atlanta Council on Human Relations--Testimony. Urged open housing--fair housing. Told Decatur, Georgia story. Said that in Decatur, Negroes are being driven out by urban renewal. In Decatur and East Lake because of realtors having sold property in transitional areas to Negroes signs "For Sale" are prohibited in yards. This is an area of extreme ghetto housing.

Rev. Holmes of N.A.A.C.P.--Testimony--Asked to speak again, urged citizen participation at policy level by law. An injunctive procedure see if it is discriminatory.

Mr. Stanton, Housing Dept.--Testimony--One property owner tried to get easement for sewers, unable to get it to improve property because she was Negro. At same time, whites in like situations were able to do so, without difficulty.

1. Northside Drive near Arden Drive--Negroes own property here but there is concerted attempt to squeeze them out because it being of desirable location for whites.

2. In Capitol Homes there is over-charge on rent from \$50.00 to \$70.00 to \$87.00, tenant told that because he did not accurately report income, he will be evicted in one week. When asked about moving to another housing project nearer to his work tenant told that the only two ways are physical condition, and size of family.

Mr. Edward Moody--Mechanicsville Community leader asked to be heard. Mr. Willmore said that agenda was filled, but after much discussion, Mr. Moody was given an appointment at 1:30 P.M. Mr. Samples of the "Grass Roots Council" also asked to be heard but later agreed to submit his findings in writing for the record.

Panel: Real Estate

Mr. Bickers] both absent
Mr. Callaway]

Panel--Mrs. Marshall J. Mantler and Dr. Wittenstein of the American Jewish Committee. Mrs. Mantler who is a licensed Atlanta realtor testified that Jews are excluded from six sub-divisions in Northwest Atlanta. She said that there are subtle ways of exclusion such as a club system in which homes are sold in a certain area to people belonging to the club. 2. There are restrictive clauses written into deeds. These are un-constitutional but most buyers shy away from law-suits. 3. Another restriction on sale of homes to Jews is an agreement by realtors to allow only ten per cent of the homes to be purchased by Jews.

Dr. Wittenstein--Testimony--Most of his testimony corroborated Mrs. Mantler's. Dr. Cothran of the Committee asked Dr. Wittenstein what would happen if a Negro tried to buy a home in a Jewish Community. Dr. Wittenstein had to confess that the Jew would move out, the Jews are just as prejudiced as the other whites and

did not desire Negro neighbors. Both these panelists urged that the Committee help to establish a program to alleviate the Jewish situation (nothing was said about the Negro one). Mr. Willmore of the Committee was interested in knowing whether any of these locations were under F.H.A. Told that they were not, (they were all (nearly all) in the luxury class, above F.H.A.

Mr. Watson of the Communicable Diseases Health Center--Testimony-- He testified that no Negroes (staff members) have been able to get homes or apartments in the area. There are apartments on North Decatur Road, but will not rent to Negroes. Mr. Willmore suggested that Atlanta Federal Housing be alerted to this situation and see what will happen. He reminded listeners that any F.H.A. guaranteed loan acceptance prohibits discrimination and many of these owners refusing Negro leases are clearly in violation of the law, under title 1, of the Civil Rights Act.

Panel: Mrs. Holloway, Mrs. Caudy, Mr. Billingslea. Mrs. Holloway--Owner in a changing neighborhood--She lives in a Southwest Atlanta home, had difficulty finding home, had a Negro realtor finally bought directly from owner. Transitional area homes are usually over-priced. No contact with white neighbors. There were no homes for sale except hers when she moved in; now three white persons have offered their homes for sale.

Mrs. Caudy--Experience very similar; white children shot B.B. guns into glass door, but have ceased, one white girl tried to be friendly to her daughter and was completely ostracized by white neighbors. There is a new club going and it is hopeful that some Community spirit can be developed with white neighbors.

Mr. Billingslea--A real estate broker testified that Negro realtors aren't really block-busting, they are simply trying to fill a demand of Negroes for better housing and some times when they contact owners in neighborhood this is the only way they can do this.

Panel--Dr. Lee Shelton, Mr. Haver, Mr. Buchwalter.

These three people were living in a transition area in the S.W. section.

Dr. Lee Shelton--Negro physician--Testimony---Testified he simply wanted a nice house with room enough for his children, found it only in West Manor, Audubon Forest in a white neighborhood. He has had no trouble. Neighbors are friendly.

Mr. Haver--a public school teacher at South-West High, lives next door to a Negro. The first night the Negroes moved in he and his wife went over to welcome them, carried a pitcher of tea, said the Negro neighbors were like them, they did not really know what to expect but they have found they are so alike in so many ways they have become friends socially and otherwise.

Mr. Buchwalter--also lives in the West Manor area. He came to Atlanta to purchase a home in a neighborhood like this. He has had no difficulty. Works for O.E.O. in CAP program. Dr. Shelton and Mr. Haver said the only regret they have is prejudice in keeping their boys in West Manor out of the Little League. Officials have dropped West Manor because of the Negro boys being in the League.

Recess:

Resumed at 1:30

Edward Moody--Mechanicsville community leader--Testimony--1. Rights end where color begins. 2. City planners are not consulting people in Atlanta based programs. 3. Public housing is not operated on a non-discriminatory basis. 4. This, the Advisory Committee, is a good example of prejudice. They have invited all these professors and officers of organizations, but no grass roots people.

Panel--Mr. Walter Scott--DeKable real estate broker.

1. Mr. Scott said in his native county, DeKalb, a white realtor will not sell a Negro property in a white neighborhood. It was brought out that $\frac{1}{2}$ of his business is with federally financed F.H.A. home owners that prohibits discrimination. Mr. Scott doubts that DeKalb County would support open housing.

2:40--Dr. Vivian Henderson arrived and took over the Chairmanship.

Panel: Mr. Brown--Atlanta Federal Savings & Loan Assoc., representing white lending agency.

Testimony--A committee member asked Mr. Brown what would happen if he, a Negro, wanted to borrow money from his company to buy a home in a white neighborhood. Mr. Brown replied that he would be reluctant to lend him the money because he would not want to upset the peace and tranquility of the white community. Mrs. Yancey of the Committee told him that supposing the applicant for the loan were an old customer of 20 years had an excellent credit rating and could easily repay his company. He said he would still be reluctant. Dr. Henderson of the Committee then reminded Mr. Brown that this could also work against him if the Negro Community found out he would not lend the Negroes the money, they would re-act against him. Mr. Brown said in that case he would lend it to them. He said he believed passage of open housing bill would stiffen the resistance.

Mr. Staten--Lawyer--National Bank of Georgia--Testimony--Said there is no policy of discrimination. Mr. Wilmore asked if they had any junior officers of color at his bank. He admitted they did not, said there were clerical workers.

Mr. Al Henry--Council on Human Relations--Mr. Henry had contacted 27 realtors from newspaper ads of property in white neighborhoods:

19 out of 27 said they would not sell to Negroes, all the houses were on loans guaranteed by F.H.A. F.H.A. is either a silent or active partner in discrimination.

Mr. Hartman--Deputy Director of Federal Housing Authority--Testimony-- If we get a complaint we will see that the guilty person is put out of the program. Only one complaint in Georgia since 1962. It was brought that most F.H.A. brokers are white. (These are authorized people dealing with lists of re-sale property under F.H.A.) These are called real estate management brokers. Lists are made up after property has been sold it does not give a fair chance to any outside sales person. There have been six sales in predominantly white areas to Negroes.

Mr. Moreland Smith--Southern Regional Council---Testimony---Open housing advocated.

Mr. Rutledge--NEDH--Legislation needed for Committee against discrimination in housing.

Model cities discussed:

1. Having a demonstration city that keeps people in ghetto is not the wisest thing.

2. Model cities is not a program, it is a technique.

3. Segregated housing is caused by urban renewal.

4. Urged real community participation.

Mr. Bob Thompson--Urban Development Dept.--Amidst talk of housing units being built on west side exclusively because there is no space, name three possible sites:

1. Canterbury Road--North of Lenox Road.

2. Railroad Avenue--Opposite Lenox Square.

3. House Road in DeKalb County; could it be leased?

Mr. Persell, Mrs. Paschall, Mr. Cecil Alexander, Mr. Robinson

1. Mr. Cecil Alexander--Do we build in the core or where? Difficult to work in DeKalb County because they have no "workable" program.

2. Mr. Robinson--The need is for equal opportunity non-profit housing.

3. Mrs. Paschall--The residents of the community use the term "stabilization"

I mean open occupancy.

4. Mr. Persell--Need for a total community fair housing commission.

5. Information should be collected and disseminated.

6. There should be a moderate income development office.

7. Find houses and finance them.