

NEWSLETTER

GREATER ATLANTA COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS — 5 FORSYTH STREET, N.W. — ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

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REPORT FROM WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCES BY ATLANTA PARTICIPANTS, Monday, July 22, 7:p.m., Stouffer's Hearth Room. Dinner \$2.40. Make reservations at Council office (523-1581) by July 18, 1963.

In response to requests, more opportunities for "members to know each other and respond to interest in what went on at the recent series of White House conferences on civil rights, the Greater Atlanta Council on Human Relations has arranged for members and friends this dinner meeting, at which time 6 of the 25 Atlantans who met with President Kennedy at the recent series of meetings will report informally on the significance of the meetings and their application to the Greater Atlanta area. The others will be invited to attend and to participate in the discussion. (We are proud that 6 of the 25 are members of the Council. Those invited to speak on July 22, however, will include some members and some non-members) COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!

SAVE AUGUST 19 FOR A PICNIC SUPPER FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS AT PIEDMONT PARK. To avoid reservations and money, each family is asked to bring your own food. The Pavilion at the Fourteenth (14) Street entrance, has been reserved for 6: p.m. to 9: p.m. This will be a purely social affair--no program, just food and conversation for all ages.

RELATED CONGRATULATIONS TO GACHR MEMBER, MORGAN STANFORD, upon his recent appointment to the Georgia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

SWIMMING POOLS: It would be worth a special effort for white GACHR members to use recently desegregated "white" pools to avoid "reseggregated" Negro pools. Encourage use of the pools by friends, neighbors and groups to which you belong. This is one way YOU can respond to the President's appeal.

From President Kennedy's Radio and Television address on June 11: "We face, therefore, a moral crisis as a country and as a people. ...It is time to act in the Congress, in your state and local legislative body, and above all, in all of our daily lives."

July, 1963

APOLOGY TO MR. HOLT:

Mr. ~~Ed~~ Holt, President of the Atlanta Board of Education, at the Board meeting on June 10, said that he had been misquoted when the Council had reported that he "couldn't think of anything to say" in response to GACHR's letter calling attention to plans for an Atlanta high school with a Negro senior student to have annual outing to Callaway Gardens, which does not admit Negroes and repeating suggestion made last year that Board adopt policy of no school sponsored functions held where all students would not be admitted. Mr. Holt said that "this Board felt for it to intercede and cause the outing to be called off would result in unfavorable reaction of the class, the student body and the community towards the student involved. This Board has done everything in its power to prevent such reaction." The student involved contacted the Council several times saying that she "would like to go on the picnic." We apologize for misquoting Mr. Holt. We still question the Board's permitting a school sponsored event to be scheduled at a place where it is known in advance that even one of the students involved would not be admitted and question the advisability of making it possible for a student to be placed in the position of making a decision which involves a choice between participating in school affairs or causing unfavorable reaction of the class, the student body and the community" towards himself or herself.

During the past few weeks, the GACHR has been asked to assist in efforts to secure enrollment of a Negro in a typing course at the Northside YMCA and enrollment of a Negro child at the Atlanta Speech School.

Bishop Randolph Clairborne of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta has announced the withdrawal of any affiliation between the Episcopal church and the Lovett School, following the announcement by the Trustees of a policy of racial segregation.

Rev. John Morris has announced that "...steps will be taken in the fall at the opening of school to protest the Trustees' decision which leaves some doubt as to the faithfulness of both Episcopal clergy and laity. ...Support will be given to direct action protest aimed at both the school itself, as well as to the members of the Board who are Episcopalians. Most likely this will include the placing of pickets at the school and at other points appropriate to the respective Trustees..."

DECATUR GACHR MEMBERS report that Negro children in Decatur must come in to Atlanta for summer school, though many Negroes live a few blocks from the white Decatur schools. The Decatur schools offered no summer courses in colored schools.

No reply to inquiries to WESTMINISTER SCHOOLS about policy of accepting applications from Negroes, for summer or regular sessions.

IN THE WORKS: Factual chronological account of desegregation to date in Atlanta

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST: Copies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's., LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL.

Notes: We urge you to support the desegregated restaurants and to state your approval of such a policy.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS BY SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CIVIL RIGHTS BILL

(You are urged to express your views to Congressman Charles Weltner, Senators Richard Russell and Herman Talmadge.)

Voting: Forbids use of different standards, practices or procedures for whites and Negroes, bars denial of right to vote in a federal election because of certain immaterial acts, provides for federal voting referee when lawsuits are pending in county in which fewer than 15% of eligible Negroes are registered; preferential treatment of voting rights suits on federal court calendars; requires presumption of literacy on completion of 6th grade in accredited school where instruction is predominantly in English.

Public Accommodations: Guarantees to all citizens full and equal enjoyment of goods, services, and facilities of hotels, restaurants, places of amusement and retail establishments in interstate commerce, i.e., where goods, services, facilities or accommodations are provided to substantial degree to interstate travelers; substantial portion of goods has moved in interstate commerce; activities of establishment substantially affect interstate commerce; establishment is integral part of establishment covered by above (bonafide private clubs and establishments not open to public not covered); persons denied access because of race can institute court action; Attorney-General can bring suit upon written complaint by aggrieved party, if party is unable to finance suit, obtain effective legal representation, or there is fear of economic or other injury; before such suit, A-G; must refer case to Community Relations Service (see below), give establishment time to correct practices; permit state and local equal access laws to operate; if plaintiff wins suit, loser pays attorney's fees.

School Desegregation: The U. S. Commission is required to report in 2 years on extent of school segregation on all levels; Commissioner authorized to give technical and financial assistance, upon request, to school districts in process of school desegregation (financial assistance to train personnel); authorizes A-G to initiate suits against local school boards and public institutions of higher learning whenever complain of existing segregation is received signed by parent or individual; party is unable to undertake suit for lack of money, effective counsel, fear of economic or other injury; A-G determines that such suit will further orderly process of desegregation.

Community Relations Service: Federal agency to work with local communities providing advice and assistance, help solve inter-racial disputes and work quietly to improve relations in any community, to be established by executive order until given statutory action.

Civil Rights Commission: Extension through 1967 and broadening of power to serve as clearing house, offering information, advice and technical assistance to any public or private agency requesting it.

Equal Opportunity Commission: Permanent statutory Commission similar to present Committee.

Federal Programs: Any federal assistance program not required to give aid where racial discrimination is practiced; no discrimination in employment contractors or sub-contractors on grounds of race.

RESTAURANTS AND HOTEL DESEGREGATION:

Restaurants: The GACHR, along with the Atlanta NAACP, the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights and individuals connected with other organizations, has been in touch with individual restaurant operators and with the Atlanta Restaurant Association for the past several months, urging voluntary desegregation of eating places. It has been stated repeatedly that no person or persons may speak for the Restaurant Association and that any action taken would be done by individuals in terms of their own places of business. The individuals taking part in the discussions have changed from one time to the next. To our knowledge, there have been no written agreements. There were verbal agreements to desegregate the last week of June, after repeated demonstrations by the Committee on Appeal for Human Relations. The understandings of the verbal agreements have varied in some cases on the part of different persons at the same meeting. Some restaurants which we understand did agree to serve Negroes decided against it before the appointed date. Some served Negroes on the "first day," then refused to serve them the next day. Some refused at first but served later. A number served Negroes but when asked by telephone if they were desegregated, said no. So--there is no "official list," and any list would probably change from day to day.

Acting on the belief that desegregation cannot be in effect until those who might be effected know of the change and on the belief that support from those who favor the change can be more effective than withdrawal of support by those who oppose it, we give here a list of restaurants in which the GACHR members have observed Negroes being served within the past few weeks: Yohannon's, Sellers (Piedmont Hotel), The Farm, Herren's, Camilla Gardens, Emile's, Escoc's, Caruso's, Davis Brothers, Johnny Rebb's, Crossroads, Big Boy Drive-in, Seven Steers, Miami Buffet, House of Eng, S&W, Bradshaw's, Howard Johnson's, Dales Cellar, Rex' Fine Foods, (the Riviera and Four Seasons for private parties).

Hotels: On June 21, Mayor Ivan Allen announced that he had been requested by 14 Atlanta hotels and motels to announce a plan for limited desegregation. The hotels listed were: the Air-Host Inn, Atlanta Americana Motor Hotel, Atlanta Cabana Motel, the Atlantan Hotel, the Biltmore Hotel, the Dinkler-Plaza Hotel, Marriott Hotel (unfinished), the Hilton Inn, 3 Howard Johnson's Motor Lodges (South, Northeast, and Northwest Expressways), the Peachtree Manor, the Piedmont Hotel, and the Riveria Motel.

The Council wrote Mr. Allen asking if this in anyway changed the situation of individual guest (s) since we are often asked to arrange lodgings for foreign visitors. He replied that he had made the announcement as requested, and was referring our letter to the Hotel Association. Mr. Styron of the Hotel Association wrote that this was an individual act by each of the 14 hotels and each would have to be contacted individually. We are in the process of doing that now. There have been reports that individual Negro guest have been accommodated, but this has not been announced as a public policy.

Dr. C. Miles Smith, NAACP president, said his understanding of the agreement was complete desegregation of these establishments.

