

## **The Urban League of Portland and Housing**

The Civil Rights movement of the 1950's and 60's marked a period of American history in which African Americans, the most oppressed members of society, began to challenge the pre existing racist system in a way that had never before had so much impact and influence.

However, for most people, common knowledge about the movement is only associated with the events and rampant racism that occurred in the Southern states. When one digs deeper, they will learn that the Movement as we know it was catalyzed in the South, but influenced activism all over the United States where the same racist practices were also a norm. There was not just one approach used by Civil Rights activists. The tenets of racial liberalism and fighting for Civil Rights with a more top down, bureaucratic approach was one method used by activists. Racial Liberalism seeks to change the legislation which legalized segregation and other Civil Rights violations, and also touch the moral conscious of their audience (whites) in hopes to further change the pre existing system. The National Urban League was one such group whose mission was to ensure equal rights socially and economically for all African Americans, through a racial liberal method. Their efforts expanded across the nation and brought real and critical improvements to the equality of blacks. The activism and work of The Portland Urban League especially, in 1955, highlights the successes of the organization in its Civil Rights efforts, primarily with regard to the issue of desegregating housing.

The National Urban League was formally established in 1920 in New York City, and encompassed multiple groups working towards equality and fair treatment of urban African Americans. The League grew rapidly and spread to cities all across America in a relatively short period of time. By the end of World War I the organization had 81 staff members, working in 30 different cities. The mission of the Urban League is one that resonates for all African Americans,

as they have been historically oppressed. Even after the emancipation from slavery, the innately racist institutions that encompass American society, keep blacks in a cycle of poor economic opportunity, which leads to a lack of social mobility and ultimately a poorer quality of life. The mission statement of the National Urban League is concise and right to the point, to enable African Americans to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. In 1945, the Urban League of Portland was founded to fight for the Civil Rights of black's in Portland, Oregon, and especially promote fair and non-segregated housing.

Surprising to many, Oregon has a deep rooted racist history with the identical rampant discrimination that was occurring in the Southern states. In the early 1940's, blacks moved to Portland in hopes of finding work in the Swan Island shipyards. They were pushed into cheap and segregated slums, such as Vancouver, Washington, and Vanport, until a horrible flood in 1948 forced the entire community to pack up and relocate into the Albina neighborhood. Black families became concentrated in this newly formed ghetto of Portland, where they faced multiple issues that restricted housing, job availability, funding for schools, and overall neighborhood improvement. Because of city school regulations, children were expected to attend their nearest schools, even though it essentially re-segregated the system, causing mostly white schools to have more funding than the others. When new African American families would move to Portland, they would be immediately be discriminated against because they would only be shown houses in the Albina neighborhood, unfairly limiting their options. They also feared economic and violent backlash from whites if they moved into a neighborhood with no black people inhabiting it.

The Portland Urban League took up this issue of segregated, unfair housing as one of its primary focuses. Through exploring the Valley Library archives and Oregonian Newspaper, one

sees the how immensely important desegregating housing was for the Urban League and also its emphasis of reaching the moral conscious of segregating whites -- a main tenet of racial liberal activism. Particularly in 1955, a huge push amongst the League for immediate action came about. The Portland Urban League held a series of meetings in 1955, mainly focusing on the issue of equal housing.

Edwin Berry, the president of the Portland Urban League from 1945 to 1969, initiated Portland fair housing reform in a way never before lobbied with such vigor. Additionally, it is critical to point out that prior to moving to Portland and starting its Urban League branch, Edwin Berry worked with the Urban League of Chicago, a Northern city with a reputation for unfair housing and violent riots. With this background, Berry brought the issue of desegregating housing to the table and made it a primary focus for the Portland Urban League. Documented in the Portland Urban League's October 13, 1955 meeting minutes, Berry (1955) states, "Housing must continue to have #1 billing on the Urban League program. Our emphasis in this area for the past year has been toward relieving discriminatory treatment in the private housing market." Housing discrimination was a key factor that perpetuated the cycle of poverty for blacks in the Portland area, and was addressed by the Urban League and moved to the top of the 1955 agenda. Ultimately, fully integrated housing was the goal for which the League was striving.

To further define exactly what the Urban League was seeking in regard to housing desegregation, minutes from the May 31, 1955 meeting clearly spell it out, "Integrated housing means that all persons shall have equal access to the housing market and that all members of a society possess equally the privileges of freedom of movement and freedom of choice." According to this definition the importance is placed on rights and opportunities, rather than presence.

The method, which the Portland Urban League used to reach its targeted audience and achieve its goals, was primarily by following the approaches and tenets of Racial Liberalism. One document found in the archives that exemplifies this was a pamphlet made by the League pushing for housing desegregation. The pamphlet has quotes from ministers and says that desegregation is the Christian, and moral thing to do. This is an example of the racial liberal approach, which is to reach out to the moral conscious of whites in order to achieve success.

Works Cited:

Berry, Edwin C. "Integrated Housing - Social Workers' Challenge and Opportunity." May 31, 1955.

Berry, Edwin C. "A Look Ahead - Suggested Program Priorities for the Year." October 13, 1955.  
"Housing must continue to have #1 billing on the Urban League program. Our emphasis in this area for the past year has been toward relieving discriminatory treatment in the private housing market."

Broad, Fred L. and Frances Clark. "Coordinating Committee on Minority Housing." September 26, 1955.

"The chairman read excerpts from an article in the Interracial Review entitled 'Helping the Panic Neighborhood', and began a discussion of literature which might be used to educate residents of neighborhoods where there is concern over the selling of property to non-whites. The Committee agreed to work on such a pamphlet."

Berry, Edwin C. "Re-use and Re-development of Land Owned By the Portland Housing Authority." October 26, 1955.

"We feel this land should be sold with the complete and unequivocal understanding that any differential treatment of non-whites or other minority citizens in terms of acquisition, purchase or occupancy of any portion of the land, or houses built thereon, shall be considered a breach of contract and covenant, and the person or persons guilty of such shall be processed against by the Authority."



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON MINORITY HOUSING  
Minutes - September 26, 1955

present: the Rev. Fred L. Broad Jr., Portland Council of Churches; Mrs. Frances Clark, Portland Deanery; Mrs. Ruth Flowers, YWCA; Clell Harris, AFL; Wilton Hartzler, American Friends Service Committee; John Hepler, Urban League of Portland; John S. Holley, Urban League; Mrs. Mary S. Kimball, League of Women Voters; Pete Loftus, Friendship House; Dixie A. McCleary, Friendship House and CIPP; William S. Thompson, NAACP; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Tobin, Committee for Interracial Principles and Practices; Mrs. Mary T. Winch, Chairman.

The Committee met in Room E of the Central Library at 12:15 p.m., with Mrs. Winch, chairman, presiding. Minutes of the May meeting were approved. Mr. Broad was called to report on meetings of the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. He stated he had attended several meetings since the firing of Mr. Ratchford as executive director of the Authority. Referring to reports that the majority of the present board is out to destroy public housing, he said there is presently nothing to "put your finger on" to prove this. However, he felt it would be well for some organization to present facts to show the continuing need for public housing here. He called attention to the fact that Lloyd Hildreth, a minority member of the board, will come up for possible reappointment this fall. He felt it would be a tragedy if Hildreth were not reappointed. Mr. Broad also feels that more facts are needed before we can attach any special significance to the actions of the Housing Authority board.

Father Tobin commented to the effect that there is a definite move afoot nationally to destroy public housing, and therefore some grounds to suspect such a movement here. However, he felt this was a matter for an aroused community at large and not the principle focus of this Committee. He felt the Committee might investigate the minority housing angle, with a view to presenting facts related to the matter of interracial housing.

Father Tobin presented a proposal to work up a playlet, to be presented to the public via radio or TV, to dramatize the problem in minority housing. He proposed that a statement of principles be drawn up by Reverend Broad, a representative of the Jewish faith, and himself; that facts relating to the crucial housing problem be gathered and that a script writer be engaged to do the writing. Following his suggestion, the chairman asked John Holley and William Thompson to work together on assembling the factual data.

The chairman read excerpts from an article in the Interracial Review entitled "Helping the Panic Neighborhood", and began a discussion of literature which might be used to educate residents of neighborhoods where there is concern over the selling of property to non-whites. The Committee agreed to work on such a pamphlet. Mr. Broad said some material of a related nature could be obtained from church groups. It was agreed that the chairman would send for this. The Urban League pamphlet "Don't Be Misled" was suggested as a base for the new pamphlet, which would carry the name of the Committee. Mr. Hepler said he had been working on some material of this nature. The chairman asked him to work further along this line.

Mr. Hartzler told of an interview he had had with Mr. Guy Arrington of FHA regarding the possibility of obtaining and enforcing a presidential order barring discrimination in the use of FHA insured loans, and suggested inviting Mr. Arrington to meet with the Committee. It was agreed that Mr. Arrington be invited to the October meeting.

The chairman suggested an interview with Clifford Orth, a young builder, to obtain his views on integration in new developments. John Hepler offered to talk with Mr. Orth and report back to the Committee.

The meeting adjourned, to meet the fourth Monday in October (th 24th) at the Jewish Community Center.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Organize study groups on this question.

Learn the facts about residential segregation.

Put the facts to work in your church group and in your individual activities.

Talk to real estate people...you'll find opportunities for real missionary work.

Establish the concept of brotherhood in housing as well as in other areas.

.....

Facts on the problem are available from the

URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND  
408 S. W. Third Avenue  
Portland 4, Oregon  
Telephone: CA 7-2697

The League will be happy to send speakers and educational literature to groups in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area, and to furnish advice on the problem by mail or telephone and send literature to groups elsewhere.

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THINGS TO READ:

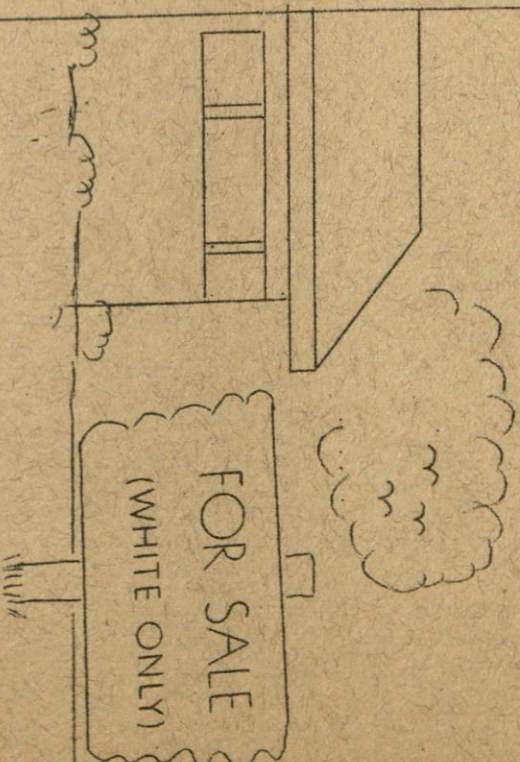
Forbidden Neighbors, by Charles Abrams.  
Harper & Brothers, New York, 1955.

"Effects of Nonwhite purchases on Market Prices of Residences", by Luigi M. Laurenti.  
The Appraisal Journal, Chicago, July, 1952.

"Restricted Area: Does it Pay?"  
U.S. News & World Report, Washington, D.C.  
October 23, 1953.

# RACIAL RESIDENTIAL RESTRICTIONS

AN UN-CHRISTIAN PRACTICE!



A MESSAGE TO ALL CHURCH FOLK  
from  
URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND



URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND  
St. Philip's Parish Hall  
Thursday, October 13, 1955

RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
by  
Edwin C. Berry, Executive Secretary

"A LOOK AHEAD"  
Suggested Program Priorities for Year

1.

HOUSING

Housing must continue to have #1 billing on the Urban League program. Our emphasis in this area for the past year has been toward relieving discriminatory treatment in the private housing market. This aspect of our program should continue unabated. It is also recommended that we give attention to community needs in Public Housing and Urban Renewal where these programs affect the goals of the Urban League.

Explanation

For the past several years we have been relieved of responsibility of devoting efforts toward race relations reforms as the Portland Housing Authority has operated on a completely equitable basis for all eligible. However, recent upheavals within the Public Housing Authority resulting in the dismissal of the entire top executive staff on grounds that were other than precise, must cause anxiety on the part of all who are concerned with:

- 1) Public Housing;
- 2) Urban Renewal;
- 3) Good Government.

We are anxious and apprehensive lest the Public Housing needs of this community are left to suffer because of unsympathetic administration and planning for future needs. As far as public housing is concerned we must:

- 1) Work to assure Negroes and other nonwhites an equal opportunity to the existing facilities; and
- 2) Seek to assure that some facilities do exist.

The elimination of the top Public Housing staff is also of serious consequence to this community for they represented the most experienced and knowledgeable persons in urban renewal in our entire State. Our community certainly needs renewal in many spots.

It has been the hope of many of us that the Urban Renewal program might be applied to the Broadway-Steel Bridge area and that this area might be used for the contemplated Exposition-Recreation Center. Professional surveys in City planning and development have shown that this area would be useful for the purpose for this land is:



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- 1) Close to center of town;
- 2) Close to center of population;
- 3) Can be acquired;
- 4) If used would eliminate one section of unpleasant living;
- 5) Would aid in the program of moving toward residential integration.

It is hoped that the Recreation-Exposition Committee and the City Council might gain maximum use of the money voted by the people by producing a good center and, at the same time, eliminating some depressed living.

In connection with our Housing Survey re Property Values and Nonwhite Occupancy, I can report that it will be ready for distribution early in November and in your hands by November 15. The survey report will be used in educational ways as heretofore agreed upon.

II. EMPLOYMENT

This aspect of our program will continue to place emphasis on:

- 1) Pilot Placement;
  - 2) Interpretation;
  - 3) Vocational counseling and guidance;
  - 4) Counseling with employers, employment agencies, labor officials;
- and less on the actual placement of individual workers or job seekers.

We will seek complete equality of job opportunity.

We will continue to teach job seekers how to find a job for themselves.

We will seek to establish a community atmosphere where the job is available to the qualified worker - regardless of his color, and where every school child knows he can aspire to any job for which he will prepare himself and GET THE JOB.

III. GUIDANCE

- 1) Home and School Relationships

We should work to improve the relationships between non-white youth, parents and the public schools. This must be done to assure that nonwhite youth are gaining, in maximum, the use of our educational system. This is not presently true but such a condition is required to assure continuous progress of nonwhite Portlanders and to assure the tranquility and wellbeing of the total community.

- 2) Academic Goals

In connection with point #1, above, we must find techniques to inculcate more serious academic goals in the minds of nonwhite parents. Many still hold to



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the belief that JUST PASSING - getting by - in school is indicating satisfactory progress. Just passing is mediocre and for this - today's - world, does not pay off.

### 3) Public Behavior

It is also recommended that we work with other community groups toward the improvement of the public behavior of some (few) nonwhites whose reprehensible behavior is blamed on all nonwhites by an unthinking public. A large portion of this boisterous, uncouth, and sometimes vulgar, behavior is caused by a small group of high school and out of school youth, but some adults are involved also. It is necessary that we devise a program which will utilize every available educational technique, including the encouragement of more extensive use of police and the courts.

#### Explanation:

I make this recommendation and statement knowing full well that there are those in the community who will mis-use and mis-quote and mis-place it. Please know I make it calculating the risk. I have not said that the public behavior of nonwhites is worse than the behavior of whites. I have said it needs improvement. At this point in history Negroes cannot afford to behave as poorly as whites.

### 4) Reduction of Racial Prejudice Among Negroes

The reduction of racial prejudice among Negro adults is an absolute necessity. We in the Urban League have been preaching that prejudice is bad, wrong, immoral and undemocratic. It is. Furthermore, racially prejudiced feelings and manifestations are no less reprehensible in Negroes than in others. The intensely prejudiced feelings of some Negro adults is being reflected in the behavior of their children. This makes it increasingly difficult for these youngsters to adjust well at school and in the larger community. Furthermore, it is devastating to the general improvement of race relations.

### IV. GENERAL

I believe we should request that the licensing department of State and City Governments require operators of public accommodations to make obedience to all state laws a condition of obtaining and retaining a license in Oregon. If such a request is accepted it will clear up, to a large degree, the violations of small restaurants, hotels, motels and taverns which insist on violating or evading present civil rights law.

These are not all the things which need to be done. They are the items which I present for priority consideration for the year ahead, weighing carefully the community needs against the resources at our command to affect positive change.

To achieve even this limited program we will need the dedicated support of members and friends and we will need a better and firmer financial foundation which can only result from an increased membership and from more members paying a little more than minimum dues.

Accepted and approved Thursday, October 13, 1955  
by Urban League of Portland Board of Directors

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PORTLAND 4, OREGON

Oct. 21, 1955

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3. Interpret the problem and the need;
4. Mobilize representatives of community forces with ability to pursue corrective action;
5. Establish a program of community re-education (hopefully with some dramatic appeal);
6. Encourage, guide and stimulate the corrective action;
7. Finally, assist in permanently crystalizing the recognized situation by helping the over-all authoratative unit establish and enunciate a terminal policy, directive or law.

If the community organization worker is to approach a problem properly equipped he must know well the community he would re-organize. This includes knowledge of the prevalent ideas, beliefs, attitudes, taboos, superstitions, myths, prejudices, and the entire system of concepts which establish the value system of a community and control its power influences.

The housing problem is so severe, so deeply entrenched, and so involved with cultural concepts and misconceptions that every technique available to society should be caused to converge on the problem. For here we are dealing with geographical segregation - a spacial thing which is undergirded and supported by ghettos of the mind. These mental ghettos establish, and MAKE REAL, spiritual segregation which is a far more formidable foe to integration than spacial separation. The spacial differences are visible, overt, and tangible. The mental ghettos can be measured only in manifestation. This manifestation is often confused and other than precise. For instance, the prejudiced white home owner may fight to maintain the color line in housing, but battle with equal vigor any attempt by others in the neighborhood to have him discontinue the arrangement which permits his black cook and Oriental houseboy to live IN his home. Here we see the prejudiced home owner satisfying his bigotry by maintaining a ceremonial (social), rather than spacial distance.

These are but a few of the complicating human factors which beset those who would re-organize American communities along democratic lines. These facts we must know and understand, but we must not be overwhelmed. They may, at first blush, cause our lay supporters to throw up their hands in holy horror at the seeming impossibility of the task. But the community organizer must always maintain perspective and help the less experienced understand that "that which is man made can be man altered".

This aspect of the community organizer's job requires delicate balance and timing. He must keep the problem and its horrible consequences in focus and thus dramatize the critical need for action and sustained interest. He must simultaneously keep examples of recent similar and successful ventures before the group for their encouragement, but not to the point of rendering them complacent.

The democratic intergroup gains of the past dozen years are greater than in all prior American history. This is an inspiring and exciting record which should be properly used to demonstrate that the job in housing de-segregation is DO-ABLE.

In setting forth the problem that is to be approached, let us be definitive. The problem is RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION. It is NOT any of the symptoms - i.e. too many people in too little space.



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Let us not be hoodwinked into accepting as an answer, or even as a partial answer, to the problem shiny new ghettos whether they be new Chinatowns, new black belts, new Indian villages, or new little Tokyos. Such a move might relieve the symptom of too little space, but would only intensify the basic problem and cause segregation to remain for a longer period.

We community organizers understand that all the approaches and techniques which can be mustered and created should be brought to bear on the problem - even those which are beyond the area of our competence. At this point, I am cautioning against the occasional ethnocentric approach by some race and intergroup relations organizations which have come to believe THEIR approach is the RIGHT approach and, therefore, all others must be WRONG. All such organizations agree that racial prejudice is learned. The overt manifestation of this prejudice is discrimination. It is further agreed that discrimination is the handmaiden of prejudice. Prejudice remains the doting protector of discrimination. This awesome twosome - prejudice and discrimination - is the basic cause of our housing and all other problems in the intergroup arena. While there has been agreement re cause, there has not been the same unanimity re best methods of reducing and eradicating these social ills.

ONE ORGANIZATION says the disease can only be helped by treatment and prescribes education.

ANOTHER says we can improve only with legal backing - we've got to have a law.

STILL OTHERS say protest, protest, protest, shout your head off.

AND ANOTHER is sure the problem can be relieved only through rededication to the teachings of Almighty God.

What is the right approach? ALL of them working simultaneously on the problem! This is the community organization process - the art of bringing together in a workable arrangement vastly different types of social organizations, causing a mobilization which directs the strength and resources of each to bear on the solving of a single problem.

The program of achieving integrated housing for America's cities should be high on the priority list of the social work profession. The responsibility of our profession is inescapable. We profess to believe in "the worth of the human personality" and the "dignity of the individual". Both concepts are fundamentally at stake here. We cannot be proud of the record of social work in the intergroup revolution of the past twelve years. Social work, which has had every reason to offer our country leadership in this improvement, has been a reluctant follower, and in many instances, has been dragged, almost kicking and screaming, into the new era.

The exhibition of bold leadership toward the achievement of integrated housing by the social work profession will assist many individuals, all American communities, and will contribute to a "more perfect Union". Beyond this, such a demonstration would assist the social work profession regain some of the prestige lost when it abdicated its responsibility to assist the United States become interracially mature.



INTEGRATED HOUSING - SOCIAL WORKERS' CHALLENGE and OPPORTUNITY

National Urban League Luncheon  
May 31, 1955

National Conference of Social Work  
Discussant's Statement on  
"The Role of Community Organization"  
by Edwin C. Berry, Executive Secretary  
Urban League of Portland

Semantics are tricky. The same words mean vastly different things to different people. At the risk of sounding didactic, I shall define my use of the phrase, INTEGRATED HOUSING.

By integrated housing I mean merely that all persons shall have equal access to the housing market and that all members of a society possess equally the privileges of FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT and FREEDOM OF CHOICE. According to this definition the importance is placed on RIGHTS and OPPORTUNITIES rather than presence. When considering programs and problems re integration we are prone to think of the physical presence of members of various racial, religious and ethnic segments of society. The definition here offered is sociologically oriented, and is the opposite of segregation - enforced separation - and it denotes no enforced separation.

IT IS OF LESS SIGNIFICANCE that Negroes are presently NOT living in the "heights", in the manors, and on the "crests" than they MAY live there.

IT IS MORE IMPORTANT that Indians are FREE to leave the reservation, than that they have NOT YET left.

IT IS OF GREATER IMPORTANCE that Americans of Oriental ancestry MAY marry members of other groups, than that they DO marry them.

The proof of integration is the recognized and protected eligibility of all persons to participate freely in the whole of American life.

The subject assigned to me is the role of community organization in achieving integrated housing. Since I am obedient, I shall allude to the subject. Permit me to point out that I believe those who use the social work process known as community organization in an effort to achieve social reform might more aptly be considered COMMUNITY RE-ORGANIZERS. The attempt to achieve integrated housing is an effort to re-arrange certain social values and social goals. The community RE-ORGANIZER uses various social work skills to achieve the desired goal of altering the racial and spacial residential arrangements in a community.

The role of the community organizer in this area differs from his work to establish - i.e. child care facilities, health services, or care of the aged - only to the extent that this problem is somewhat more explosive. The correction of segregation conflicts with a number of society's most deep seated taboos, superstitions and prejudices.

The community organization role in seeking integrated housing, as in other projects, must be to:

1. Gather the salient facts which may be resultant of original study and research, or authenticated material otherwise assembled;
2. SHARPLY identify and pinpoint the problem;



"Ghetto living, to which we condemn our minority people, cannot be defended in a democratic society and it violates all Christian principles."--The Rev. Mark A. Talney, Executive Secretary, Oregon Council of Churches.

.....

Church leaders of all faiths now recognize that racial segregation is an un-Christian practice. Many are acting, in the interest of the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of One God, to eliminate this evil from our national life. But the elimination of segregation in our churches themselves cannot be achieved while a segregated housing pattern persists.

.....

The Reverend Myron C. Cole, president of the Portland Council of Churches, has enunciated that residential segregation is "the last great barrier to equality of opportunity for all citizens", and called for individual and collective action dedicated to its removal.

.....

The U.S. Supreme Court has stated that:

"Enforcement of restrictive covenants....is judicial action contrary to the public policy of the United States....."

"Whatever the framers (of the Constitution) sought to achieve," the Court said further, "it is clear that the matter of primary concern was the establishment of equality in the enjoyment of those rights political rights and the preservation of those states from discriminatory action on the part of the states based on considerations of race or color."\*

\* From Supreme Court Ruling outlawing racially restrictive housing covenants. (May 3, 1948)

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Despite the action of the Supreme Court, most non-white citizens are still excluded from average residential districts like your own by a real estate "code of ethics" or by "gentlemen's agreements".

.....

Discrimination in the sale of housing is an evil which few of us recognize, but which all are a party to. It is a violation of Christian principles and a breach of human rights. Most of us are uninformed as to the nature and extent of this injustice.

.....

Homeowners, builders and mortgage lenders have been acting on the basis of these false assumptions:

1. That the presence of minority families destroys property values and undermines social status.
2. That people of the various races prefer to live among their "own kind".
3. That Negroes and other nonwhites are only able to afford the "slum dwellings".

The most widely accepted, and therefore most damaging, is the property value myth (point 1 above). Yet this rumor, along with the others, has been scientifically proven false.

You can, and should, know the truth and be free.

THE FACTS  
ARE AVAILABLE



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St. Philip's Parish Hall  
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It is also recommended that we work with other community groups toward the improvement of the public behavior of some (few) nonwhites whose reprehensible behavior is blamed on all nonwhites by an unthinking public. A large portion of this boisterous, uncouth, and sometimes vulgar, behavior is caused by a small group of high school and out of school youth, but some adults are involved also. It is necessary that we devise a program which will utilize every available educational technique, including the encouragement of more extensive use of police and the courts.

#### Explanation:

I make this recommendation and statement knowing full well that there are those in the community who will mis-use and mis-quote and mis-place it. Please know I make it calculating the risk. I have not said that the public behavior of nonwhites is worse than the behavior of whites. I have said it needs improvement. At this point in history Negroes cannot afford to behave as poorly as whites.

### 4) Reduction of Racial Prejudice Among Negroes

The reduction of racial prejudice among Negro adults is an absolute necessity. We in the Urban League have been preaching that prejudice is bad, wrong, immoral and undemocratic. It is. Furthermore, racially prejudiced feelings and manifestations are no less reprehensible in Negroes than in others. The intensely prejudiced feelings of some Negro adults is being reflected in the behavior of their children. This makes it increasingly difficult for these youngsters to adjust well at school and in the larger community. Furthermore, it is devastating to the general improvement of race relations.

### IV. GENERAL

I believe we should request that the licensing department of State and City Governments require operators of public accommodations to make obedience to all state laws a condition of obtaining and retaining a license in Oregon. If such a request is accepted it will clear up, to a large degree, the violations of small restaurants, hotels, motels and taverns which insist on violating or evading present civil rights law.

These are not all the things which need to be done. They are the items which I present for priority consideration for the year ahead, weighing carefully the community needs against the resources at our command to affect positive change.

To achieve even this limited program we will need the dedicated support of members and friends and we will need a better and firmer financial foundation which can only result from an increased membership and from more members paying a little more than minimum dues.

Accepted and approved Thursday, October 13, 1955  
by Urban League of Portland Board of Directors

NG SERVICE

PORTLAND 4, OREGON

Oct. 21, 1955

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