

Cambridge File

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made this twenty-second day of July 1963, by and between certain representatives of the Negro citizens of the City of Cambridge, Maryland, certain representatives of the State of Maryland and City of Cambridge:

WITNESSTH:

WHEREAS the Negro citizens of the City of Cambridge have organized for the purpose of eliminating racial segregation and discrimination in all public institutions and privately-owned business establishments catering to the general public in the City of Cambridge; and have as their further purpose and objective the securing of equal employment opportunities and better housing facilities for all of the Negro citizens of Cambridge and;

WHEREAS the Negro citizens of Cambridge have petitioned city officials of Cambridge toward the accomplishment of these ends and;

WHEREAS the resolution of these problems has occasioned racial unrest in the City of Cambridge for a period of approximately nineteen months and;

WHEREAS the situation became such as required, on June 14, 1963, the ordering of the Maryland National Guard to Cambridge to maintain peace and order in that community and;

WHEREAS despite the presence of the National Guard, incidents have occurred which have aggravated and heightened tensions brought on by the attempted resolution of such racial problems and;

WHEREAS since the proclamation of the Governor sending the National Guard to the City of Cambridge, there have been numerous meetings between representatives of the Negro citizens, and representatives of the City of Cambridge and State of Maryland, at which time the various grievances aforesaid were discussed and proposals tendered by the Negro citizens were considered, all of which were predicated upon a desire of those representing the Negro community to achieve equal rights and opportunities and;

WHEREAS further progress can best be obtained in an atmosphere of calm and serenity and;

WHEREAS various negotiations, including those held today, July 22, 1963, under the auspices of the United States Department of Justice, have produced material and tangible accomplishments to the satisfaction of the just and equitable goals of the Negro citizens of Cambridge, some of which are as follows:

(1) The Mayor and City Council of Cambridge have appointed a bi-racial committee, designated as the Human Relations Commission of the City of Cambridge, on which Commission four Negro citizens have been named as members.

(2) A Negro citizen has been retained, effective August 1, 1963, as an interviewer with the Department of Employment Security of the State of Maryland in the Cambridge office.

(3) The Mayor and Commissioners of Cambridge have adopted a charter amendment which provides for desegregation of places of public accommodation. Though said charter amendment may be subject to a referendum, as provided by law, it is the hope of all those signing this agreement that such a referendum vote will not be necessary and that said amendment will become effective on August 20, 1963. The parties hereto express the belief that it is in the best interests of the entire city of Cambridge that the charter amendment not be petitioned to referendum.

(4) Firm assurances were received today that desegregation of the first four grades in the Dorchester County school system will be accomplished by the opening of the school year, September 1963, and that applications for admission to any grade in any

school within the Dorchester County school system are now ready to be received and processed without regard to race, creed or color.

(5) The Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Cambridge, acting by and through its duly constituted Housing Authority, will cause the necessary applications to be filed with the Federal Housing Administration in order to obtain a low rent public housing project which will materially benefit the Negro community. Absolute confirmation of such action has been received today from the Mayor and Commissioners of Cambridge, and, at a meeting between Negro representatives of the City of Cambridge, held in the City of Washington, D. C. with Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Federal Housing Administrator, Dr. Weaver gave assurances that such application would be expeditiously processed.

In recognition of the above, and in order to achieve continued cooperation in a climate most conducive to successful implementation of the purposes set forth in this agreement, the representatives of the Negro citizens of the City of Cambridge hereby agree that there will be no form of protests or demonstrations for an indefinite period hereafter.

The parties hereto whose signatures are affixed below realize that although there are no legal sanctions attached to this agreement yet it is considered as imposing a moral obligation upon them to abide by and fully support the spirit and intention of this agreement.

Gloria H. Richardson
Mrs. Gloria C. Richardson
Chairman, Non-Violent Action
Committee
Cambridge, Maryland

Phillip H. Savage
Phillip Savage
Area Secretary
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People

John Lewis
John Lewis
Chairman
Student Non-Violent Co-
ordinating Committee

Stanley Branche
Stanley Branche
Field Secretary
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People

Reginald Robinson
Reginald Robinson
Field Secretary
Student Non-Violent Coordina-
ting Committee

Clarence Logan
Clarence Logan
Chairman
Civic Interest Group

Calvin W. Mowbry
Calvin W. Mowbry
Mayor
City of Cambridge, Maryland

Arthur Parker
Arthur Parker
President, Commissioners of
Cambridge, Maryland

C. Awdry Thompson
C. Awdry Thompson
City Attorney
City of Cambridge, Maryland

Thomas B. Finan
Thomas B. Finan
Attorney General
State of Maryland

Edmund C. Mestor
Edmund C. Mestor
Executive Assistant to the Governor
State of Maryland

Witnessed this 23 day of July 1963:

Robert F. Kennedy
Robert F. Kennedy
Attorney General
United States of America

Burke Marshall
Burke Marshall
Assistant Attorney General
Department of Justice