

Information Letter No. 11

CORE Southern Office/Research ** 2209 Dryades St., New Orleans, La, ** 523-7625 ** 5/27/65

FRANCHISE SERVICE FOR MINORITIES

I have received very few requests from you for information on the Dept. of Commerce Franchise Service for Minorities, as discussed in Information Letter No. 6. This could be a good chance to help people to begin their own businesses. I have lists of the participating companies, and Small Business Administration Loans are available to help people to obtain these franchises. The first franchise to be acquired by a Negro under the Franchise Service for Minorities was to set up his own business as an operator of a "Chicken Delight" food carry-out store. He put up \$8,000 of his own savings, received a \$7,500 loan from the Small Business Administration, and borrowed \$2,500. from the Freedom National Bank in New York. The capitol investments range from about \$600. to \$50,000. A listing of the companies participating in this program is available upon request. When I send you the list, you can write directly to the companies about the amount of capitol required to purchase a franchise.

COMPLAINTS TO FEDERAL AGENCIES

Here is a general list of the appropriate agencies for complaints:

1. Federal Contractors: Complaints under Executive Order 10925, which covers employment practices of all companies holding federal contracts, should be made to the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, Washington, D. C. These complaints must be made by persons against whom discrimination has been committed.

2. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act: This is the title that goes into effect on July 2, 1965, covering all employers with more than 100 employees, unions with more than 100 members, and employment agencies. Complaints will be made to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, D. C. (This Commission has not yet been appointed). Again, complaints must be made by the person against whom the discrimination has been committed.

3. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act: This is the title that covers all federally assisted programs. Complaints under this title can be made by anyone who observes discrimination, and not necessarily by someone directly involved in it. Complaints are made directly to the agency involved, for example:

(A) Complaints on hospitals, schools, welfare agencies, libraries to Anthony J. Celebrezze, Secretary, U.S. Department Of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D. C.

(B) Complaints on state employment services, Manpower Development and Training Programs, etc. to W. Willard Wirtz, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

(C) Complaints on Agricultural Programs, such as ASCS, County Agents, Conservation Programs, Farmers Home Administration Loans, surplus food distribution, etc. to Orville L. Freeman, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

(D) Complaints of Public Housing, College Dormitories built with federal funds, urban renewal, etc. to Robert C. Weaver, Administrator, Housing and Home Finance Agency, Washington, D. C.

(E) Complaints on any aspect of the Anti-poverty program to Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr., Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington, D. C.

A complaint need only be a letter. Copies should be sent to Louis L. Mitchell, Southern Field Representative, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Washington, D. C., and to me. It might also be a good idea to send a copy to Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

(CON'T)

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE (ASCS)

Each county holds yearly elections in which the farmers (including tenants and sharecroppers) elect 3-man community committees (several such elections are held in each county). These committees elect a 3-man county committee which plays an important role in the agricultural community. In the past, there has been a great deal of discrimination in these elections. This year, however, a directive has been released from Washington to local ASCS committees, requiring all counties to place Negro candidates on the ballots for community committee elections in at least the same proportion as there are Negro farmers in individual counties. This means that you should do the following things: (1) find out when the ASCS elections take place in your state. (In Louisiana they are in August). (2) Find out the percent of Negro farmers in the county. (I can provide this information for you upon request). (3) See that the directive is carried out, and make complaints to the Dept. of Agriculture if it is not. (4) See that the right Negroes are placed on the ballot - do not allow the white community to select the Negroes. Complain to Washington if you do not like the way this is handled. (5) Organize the farmers and have them agree on the candidates they will vote for, so that they won't split the Negro vote. They may vote for up to five candidates, but if less than that are good, the entire Negro farm community should vote for those candidates only. All farmers get one vote, regardless how much land they work.

Also, land measurement is now taking place in farming areas, and the ASCS committees hire the people to do this work. Negroes should be encouraged to apply to the local ASCS office for these jobs, since ASCS officials have been instructed to hire them.

It might be a good idea to have someone visit the local ASCS office to discuss the plans they have for implementing these directives.

ARA DIRECTORY OF APPROVED PROJECTS

I have an ARA Directory of Approved Projects as of March 31, 1965. Anyone wanting this information for a particular area, please let me know.

TEACHER TRAINING

I have a list of colleges and universities which have received special federal funds to train teachers of mentally retarded children. Information for particular areas is available upon request.

FEDERAL CONTRACTORS

One of the ways of identifying federal contractors is by an Equal Opportunity Employment Poster that they are required to display. I have some of these posters, if anyone would like to see what they look like.

DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

I have a list of Federal Depository Libraries as of Sept. 1962. These libraries are covered by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. The information for specific areas is available upon request.

Judith C. Nusbaum
Research/Federal Programs