

Official Organ . . "The Crisis"

Allentown Branch of the National Association  
for the Advancement of Colored People

Allentown, Pennsylvania

June 28, 1954  
469 Willow St.  
Allentown, Pa.

N. A. A. C. P.  
20 West 40th St.  
New York 18, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:

We are gravely disturbed regarding an act of unlawful discrimination on the part of an amusement park perpetrated June 22, 1954, which was just brought to the attention of our Local Branch.

The following story in connection with this unlawful act was given to our branch by Mr. Sylvester Rone: Mr. Rone of Allentown, Pa. states, "on May 30, 1954 he and some other representatives of a Colored Church School went to Pine Tree Park, Emmaus, Pa. to make reservation for their forth-coming picnic, July 22, 1954. He further says, after talking with the owner of the park all the necessary arrangements were made, satisfactory to both parties. The owner, then made a record of this transaction in his official book. Mr. Rone assuming that everything was alright goes to considerable expense publicizing this affair. Three weeks later, June 22, 1954, Mr. Rone was informed by the owner that his reservation had been canceled. The owner says, 'this action was taken because he had been informed by some of his friends that to allow them the use of his park would ruin his business.' Now, Mr. Rone states, he has sufficient evidence to establish this fact."

Such discriminatory act is bold defiance of our State Civil Rights Act, therefore, we are bringing this matter to your attention. We are sincerely hoping that your office will advise the necessary steps to avoid occurrence of such practices.

We shall appreciate hearing from you in the immediate future, for we would like to know how you stand on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

LOCAL BRANCH

*Mrs. E. Lloyd*

(Mrs.) E. Lloyd, President

2817 JUN 29 '54

2817 JUN 29 '54

*Handwritten initials*

June 30, 1954

Mrs. E. Lloyd, President  
Allentown Branch, NAACP  
469 Willow Street  
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Lloyd:

Your letter of June 28, 1954 to the NAACP has been referred here for reply.

I assume that Pine Tree Park at Emmaus, Pennsylvania, is an amusement park which is generally open to the public. If this is true, then the facts which you relate make out a clear violation of the Pennsylvania Public Accommodations Act (Purdon's Pa. Statutes Ann., Title 18, Section 4654), for this Act prohibits discrimination in the admission to any amusement park in the State of Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Act makes such discrimination a crime, punishable by a fine of not more than \$100.00, or imprisonment of not more than 90 days, or both. I would therefore suggest that your branch bring this incident to the attention of the local District Attorney and ask him to prosecute the guilty parties. It would, of course, be wise to bring all possible pressure to bear upon him in order to induce him to prosecute. If, after a reasonable amount of time, it appears that the District Attorney is not willing to prosecute, then please be in touch with me again and I shall ask Mr. White to telegraph the local District Attorney and the Attorney-General of the State of Pennsylvania in order to bring additional pressure. However, I think it wise that the matter first be brought to the attention of the authorities by local residents.

I would also suggest that you consult with the members of your legal redress committee or with some local attorney.

Please keep me posted as to future developments in this matter.

Sincerely,

David E. Pinsky

DEP/mf