## **UAW FAIR PRACTICES**

TO EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

FREEDOM CONSCIENCE EXPRESSION

TO CITIZENSHIP & ITS PRIVILEGES

> Official Bulletin of the Fair Practices and Anti-Discrimination Department, UAW Walter P. Reuther, President & Director . William Oliver, Co-Director 8000 East Jefferson, Detroit 14 Mich.

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COMMISSION ON TUR **RIGHTS APPOINTED** 

DETROIT, MICH .--- Some two months after the approval of the "Civil Rights Act of 1957" President Eisenhower has finally appointed the new Civil Rights Commission. The Commission was appointed November 7, 1957. Chairman of the group is Stanley F. Reed, retired Supreme Court Justice. Others comprising the sixmember Commission are:

- Dr. John A. Hannah, Vice Chairman, who is President of Michigan State University and former Assistant Secretary of Defense.
- John S. Battle, former Governor of Michigan.
- The Reverend Dr. Theodore M. Hesburgh, President of Notre Dame University.
- Robert G. Storey, Dean of Southern Methodist University Law School and former President of the American Bar Association.
- J. Ernest Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of Labor.

#### SENATE ACTION

The recess appointments are subject to Senate confirmation when Congress reconvenes in January. Formal nominations will be sent to the Senate at that time.

Reed was one of the nine Supreme Court justices who unanimously declared in May, 1954 that segregation of public school pupils on grounds of race was unconstitutional.

Under the Civil Rights Law enacted by Congress and approved by Eisenhower last August, not more than three members of the new commission may be members of the same political party.

The White House listed Reed, Battle and Storey as Democrats, Hannah and Wilkins as Republicans and Hesburgh as a political independent.

#### STAFF DIRECTOR

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The commission will have a full time staff director to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

In addition to investigating the denial of voting rights, the Civil Rights Act says that the Commission shall:

1. "Collect information concerning legal developments constituting a denial of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution."

2. "Appraise the laws and policies of the Federal government with respect to equal protection of the laws."

The Commission must submit a final report by September 9, 1959.

The new Senate convening January, 1958, will not only face confirmation of this new Commission but they will also have to deal with fresh new demands of the Civil Rights forces inside and outside of the Congress on the question of restoring the controversial Section III of the Civil Rights bill as passed by the House this summer. Increased support for this section has been indicated in the Senate since summer adjournment as a result of the tragic situation which developed in Little Rock.

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights on last August 23, 1957 asserted in its statement regarding the Civil Rights bills, "Any bill passed now will be the beginning — not

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We believe that each of these rights is essential for the well-being of the individual and to the progress of society.

THE

RIGHT.

TO SAFETY & SECURITY

OF THE PERSON

The President's Committee on Civil Rights

### MILWAUKEE BRICKLAYERS UNION ADMITS NEGROES

NEW YORK - Herbert Hill, NAACP labor secretary, said today he has been informed that Negroes have been admitted, for the first time, into Local 8 of the Milwaukee Bricklayers Union.

Mr. Hill hailed the development, pointing out that he had worked for more than a year with the Wisconsin Industrial Commission and with local and national AFL-CIO officials to secure the admission of Negro workers into the Milwaukee union.

He called the Milwaukee action "significant because it is a successful attack against the discriminatory practices which are widespread in building trades unions."

"The right to belong to a trade union operating in the building trades industry is not merely an abstract civil right, it is a necessary condition of employment," he noted.

Two Negro mechanics, Randolph Ross and James Harris, had initiated action before the Wisconsin Industrial Commission, which administers the Wisconsin fair employment practices act. The Commission had ordered the union to admit the Negro workers but had been defied by the union. The union's refusal to admit the two Negro mechanics had been sustained by the State Supreme Court of Wisconsin.

# NEW POLICY FOR BIAS UNIT "BADLY NEEDED"-WILKINS

NEW YORK—The fourth annual report of the President's Committee on Government Contracts indicates "the adoption of a regular review policy," Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, said here today. "This has been badly needed," he added.

While expressing the Association's appreciation of this innovation, Mr. Wilkins noted that the report, issued on Nov. 19, reveals too little about the enforcement of the non-discrimination clause in U. S. government contracts. The committee, he asserted, was established to secure compliance with these contract clauses.

According to the report, the committee last year received 293 complaints of which 187 have been closed with remaining 106 "still under study and investigation."

"If the contracts reviewed are key ones within large industrial groups," Mr. Wilkins said, "the results could have a salutary effect."

Further, he pointed out, "vigorous action on the part of the committee is essential to end racial discrimination in employment because the federal government plays a vital role in determining the course of civil rights in America."

Currently before the committee are cases filed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People against many multi-plant corporations operating in basic sectors of the American economy. Among these are complaints against several major aircraft manufacturers including Boeing Aircraft Company, Wichita, Kans.; the Hayes Aircraft Company, Birmingham; Rohr Aircraft Company, Riverside, Calif.; Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Marietta, Ga.; and Cessna Aircraft Company, Wichita, Kans.

The Association has also documented an industry-wide pattern of employment discrimination against Negro workers in the oil refining and chemical industry in a series of complaints filed against the Esso Standard Oil Company, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Union Carbon and Carbide Company, Texas City, Texas; Cit-Con Oil Corporation, Lake Charles, Louisiana; Lion Oil Company, El Dorado, Arkansas; and the three groups of trade unions holding the collective bargaining agreements with these companies. In addition the Association has filed cases against the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and other large corporations.

"We note that the current report of the committee makes no comment about these important cases although some of them were filed well over two years ago without any subsequent progress report from the committee," Mr. Wilkins asserted.

### THE WASHINGTON STORY

Remember last year when some Washington school teachers testified before a Congressional committee about the educational difficulties in integrated schools in the nation's capital? The story was blazoned in headlines across the nation, particularly in the South.

How many of you, however, have read the sequel?

Elva C. Wells, principal of Theodore Roosevelt High School, a predominantly Negro high school in Washington, testified last year that many of her pupils were "far below normal" in achievement tests. This year the tests were given again with amazing results. Said Mrs. Wells: "In the twelfth-grade tests Roosevelt ranked right up with Wilson, Western and Coolidge high schools." The last three are mainly white high schools.

"Even more important," added Mrs. Wells, "in our basic group in tenth grade there were gains of up to four years in arithmetic and reading in one year's instruction. And practically all of the 150 pupils in the basic group made more than one year of normal gain in the 1956-57 school year."

Mrs. Wells attributed the scholastic progress to "teaching by excellent teachers—teaching every minute of every day" and to the home-education job done by the school. Many Negro students, she said, came to Roosevelt with high grades from Negro high schools but received lower grades under Roosevelt standards. This, at first, brought objections from Negro parents. "We have made it clear to the parents that if Negroes declare for equality they must measure up," she insisted. "In competition with other children in standard achievement tests given the country over, if they show that they know their subjects just as well as white Johnny Jones they are indeed his equal. It is no kindness to give them high marks by lower standards."

The result? "Our approach has proved to be satisfactory," she commented. "We hope that as our students are exposed to better teaching before they get to us, they will continue to improve from year to year."

### TOO FAR TO WALK

A southern chemical firm which wanted to end segregation, reports *Chemical Week*, a trade publication, built identical washrooms for whites and Negroes—at opposite ends of the plant. When white workers had to use the rest rooms, and didn't want to walk the length of the plant, they would sometimes slip into the nearest one, even though it might be marked "colored." Eventually the reverse occurred, soon the signs were removed.

## AFL-CIO SPEAKS ON LITTLE ROCK

NEW YORK CITY — In other action on the integration front, the AFL-CIO Executive Council issued a statement September 24 at its meeting in New York City, supporting the President in the Little Rock crisis. The full text of the declaration is as follows:

"The AFL-CIO feels very strongly that the defiance of law and order in Little Rock by a mob of demonstrators against school integration is completely intolerable.

"We fully support the action of the President in issuing an emergency proclamation and warning that he will use federal troops, if necessary, to enforce compliance with court orders."

On September 14, President Meany wired the President at the White House saying, "The U. S. constitution and the laws of the land have been challenged in Little Rock, Arkansas. Troops are being used to enforce segregation in the schools there, in flagrant contravention of rulings of the U. S. Supreme Court.

"The AFL-CIO is firmly dedicated to the preservation of the cherished traditions of our democracy, and to the enjoyment of full and equal rights by all Americans.

"The AFL-CIO looks to the President for the firm and decisive action to assure full and prompt application of the U. S. constitution and the laws of the land in Arkansas."

### LOS ANGELES BARS DISCRIMINATION IN SALE OF REDEVELOPED PROPERTY

LOS ANGELES — Enactment of an ordinance by the City Council to prohibit racial discrimination in the sale, rental or lease of redeveloped property was praised today by the County Conference on Community Relations (CCCR), sponsor of the measure and coordinating body for the 60 major civil rights, church, labor, social service and professional organizations concerned with human relations. The ordinance, which was passed on Monday (June 10) by unanimous vote, now awaits Mayor Norris Poulson's signature.

The ordinance requires that in any redeveloped area, such as the planned Bunker Hill project, contracts entered into by the Community Redevelopment Agency shall contain provisions prohibiting "discrimination against, or segregation of, any person or group of persons on account of race, color, creed, national origin or ancestry in the sale, lease, sub-lease, transfer, use, occupancy, tenure or enjoyment of the premises." The non-discrimination provisions of the ordinance are mandatory.

The CCCR also expressed appreciation to Councilman Edward Roybal for his "year-long leadership in efforts to obtain passage of the measure." It quoted him as stating:

"Enactment of this ordinance marks a long step forward in the promoting of better human relations in the City of Los Angeles. It not only establishes a mandatory anti-discrimination rule to insure equal opportunity for the enjoyment of the benefits of residential and business property redeveloped with the assistance of the City, but also provides a model and a guide to encourage more democratic practices in the rental and sale of wholly private housing which is developed without the assistance of public funds."

The ordinance was introduced as a result of recommendations made by the County Conference on Community Relations, George L. Thomas, its Executive Director declared. A special housing sub-committee of the CCCR conferred with Edward Roybal, consulted with the Chairman of the Community Redevelopment Agency, and testified before the City Council as well as at public hearing of the Council's Planning Committee (Continued on page 4)

# UAW NEW JERSEY LOCALS HOLD CIVIL RIGHTS CONFAB



William H. Oliver, Co-Director, UAW Fair Practices Department, addressing Delegates to the Region 9 UAW—New Jersey Civil Rights Conference. Director Gerber and Andrew Dabbakian are seated. The conference was held at N. Y. Hotel Commodore Nov. 16, 1957.

NEW YORK CITY—UAW Local Unions in Regions 9 and 9A representing more than 30 UAW Local Unions in New Jersey and Greater New York City held its First Annual Fair Practices

Conference at New York's Commodore Hotel, Saturday, November 16, 1957.

The opening session of the Conference heard Director Martin Gerber outline a broad program to cope with existing problems at the shop, local and Committee levels. Director Gerber urged Union Fair Practices Committees to concentrate on opening up new opportunities in training of minority groups in skilled classifications. In an address to the delegates William H. Oliver, Co-Director of the Fair Practices and Anti-Discrimination Department, told the delegates of the progress made by the Union in Employment, Housing, citing recent advances of minority groups in Southern plants.

The morning and afternoon Workshops conducted by Harry E. Ross, International Representative, Fair Practices Department, Andrew Dabbakian, Field Representative, Fair Practices Department; Sol Rabkin, Anti - Defamation League, and Frances Levinson, National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, dealt with Employment — Shop Problems; Activating Local Union Fair Practices Committees; Civil Rights; Housing. Resource persons were Assistant Director Gabriel DeAngelis, International Representative Emanuel Mann, Arthur Chapin, New Jersey CIO, Madison Jones, N.A.A.C.P., and Reginald Johnson, National Urban League.

#### WEST SIDE DETROIT REGION HOLDS RIGHTS CONFAB

DETROIT, MICH. — More than 150 delegates representing 16 UAW Local Unions on Detroit's West Side participated in an all-day Civil Rights Conference, October 12, 1957, at the Region 1-A Headquarters, 8222 Joy Road.

The Conference which was sponsored by Co-Directors Edward J. Cote and Joseph McCusker opened its morning session with a discussion of Local Union Fair Practices Problems, which included:

- Opportunities for Negro Trainees and Apprentices in UAW Shops.
- Promotions and upgrading of minorities in skilled and semi-skilled classifications.
- Activating Local Union Fair Practices Committees — and other Fair Practices and Civil Rights problems.

## MEANY SPEAKS ON CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES—SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON — Newspapers are not exceptionally kind to the AFL-CIO or its officials. But early this month most of them took their editorial hats off to AFL-CIO President George Meany for his speech on behalf of human rights to the United Nations.

Meany, a member of the U.S. Mission to the 12th General Assembly of the UN, was commenting on the report of the Economic and Social Council which dealt with the world social situation.

He reviewed the progress that has been made in various countries and outlined the contributions the American trade union movement has made to social progress in our own country.

But, he noted, we still have a number of basic and critical social problems to solve in the U. S. and among these is the uprooting and eliminating of every vestige of racial discrimination.

"Discrimination, intolerance and bigoted social customs," the AFL-CIO president told the UN, "exist everywhere in some degree. They are the weight of past centuries which to some extent all peoples carry.

"The important issue is: does there exist a determination to recognize them openly, to face up to them and to make effective progress in combatting them?"

"In our trade unions," Meany said, "we have been fighting and shall continue to fight vigorously against race discrimination and other forms of social corrosion and moral corruption. And we have been getting results in eliminating such evil elements and anti-social practices.

"Let me assure you, we do not hide but fight these evils."

Commenting on the problem of desegregating schools, Meany told the UN that this controversy shows there is still much to be done.

"Nevertheless," he added, "to put the problem into perspective I would like to point out that 31 of our 48 states now have completely integrated school systems. In 10 other states integration is progressing and in most cases without difficulties."

It is important, the AFL-CIO president said, "that this progress has come about through the influence of millions of Americans acting through their voluntary associations.

"But even more important is the fact that the people of the United States and their government have an active and open national policy against race discrimination—regardless of the cover or label under which it may be hidden," Meany declared.

"That is the meaning of the Supreme Court decision upholding the law on school segregation. That is the meaning of the federal government's action in Little Rock, Arkansas, protecting the rights of the individual under the decisions of the court."

As Meany concluded there was a burst of applause from all except the Soviet delegates and their satellites. Later the lobbies buzzed with talk and Meany was surrounded with delegates.

A seasoned UN official explained, "Why wouldn't they want to know him? The rest are all functionaries. He is the only man here who represents anyone in his own right."

### LOS ANGELES BARS BIAS IN SALE OF REDEVELOPED PROPERTY

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headed by Councilman Ernest Debs, which made a favorable recommendation on the ordinance.

Members of the CCCR housing sub-committee which conducted the program to formulate the ordinance and enlist support for it included:

Max Mont of the Jewish Labor Committee, Chairman of the housing sub-committee; Loren Miller, Chairman West Coast Legal Redress Committee, NAACP; Fay Rosenblatt, Member Board of Directors, Urban League; Martha Tripp, Assistant Executive Director Metropolitan YWCA; J. J. Rodriguez, President, Community Service Organization; David Ziskind, Chairman, Legal Committee, CCCR; Thomas Neusom, Legal Committee, NAACP; Vada Sommerville, Member, County Committee on Human Relations; George A. Beavers, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Directors, Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company.

### TOKEN INTEGRATION IN HOUSING AT NAVAL DEPOT CHARGED BY NAACP

SAN FRANCISCO — Lester Bailey, NAACP field secretary, charged here today that most Negroes are "solidly Jim-Crowed" at the Naval Ordnance Depot in Babbitt, Nev., despite the filing of housing segregation charges with the Defense Department by the NAACP.

He said reports indicate that Depot authorities "have begun a slow, piecemeal system of housing desegregation," which "amounts to the scattering of several Negro families throughout the housing area."

"But the fact remains that there is deliberate housing segregation in Babbitt," Mr. Bailey asserted. "Civilian and naval authorities in Babbitt are not administering the local housing policy in keeping with the letter and spirit of the Executive Order calling for desegregation within the jurisdiction of the armed forces."

"No amount of token integration can upset the accuracy of our charge that the Navy is maintaining Jim Crow housing in this instance," he added.

### HART URGES STEP TO HALT RESTAURANT BIAS

The Howard Johnson Restaurant chain has been urged by Lt. Governor Philip A. Hart to make sure all new Howard Johnson restaurants won't practice racial discrimination.

Hart wrote Howard Johnson, president of the chain, mentioning the Johnson restaurant in Dover, Delaware which, Hart said, caused "serious embarrassment to the United States Government in the conduct of its foreign relations," by refusing to serve the finance minister of Ghana, the newly-independent nation in West Africa. Hart wrote that "as a frequent Howard Johnson Restaurant patron and as a concerned citizen, I am writing to urge that you consider ceasing to issue franchises to restaurants which discriminate on the basis of race." Hart said he felt sure Johnson would agree that "racial discrimination is unjust and anti-democratic, and should be ended regardless of international political developments."

# DISCRIMINATION, CIVIL RIGHTS ARE DISCUSSED AT MEETINGS

By PAULEEN FIELD, Local 652 Publicity Committee

LANSING, MICH.—Local 652 UAW was host Oct. 30 to Region 1C one day conference on Fair Employment Practices & Civil Rights.

Earl Crompton, Int'l Rep. and member of the UAW National Advisory Council on Anti-Discrimination served as Chairman.

Local 652 President Russell White welcomed delegates from Locals 599, 651, 602, 724, 652, 659, 721, and 326.

Four panel discussion groups were available. Workshop 1 dealt with "Activating Local Union Fair Practices Committees" and "What Every Member Should Know". Discussion Leader was Lillian Hatcher, International Rep. Fair Practices Department, servicing Region 1C.

Workshop 2, dealt with "Employment — Michigan State F. E. P." Discussion leader in this group was Harry Ross, National Rep. Fair Practices Dept.

William H. Oliver led the discussion in workshop 3, which dealt with "Federal-State Civil Rights."

Workshop 4 discussed "Housing" with Evelyn Merson, asst. director, National Committee Against Discrimination.

Many resource people were on hand and participated in all workshops. William H. Oliver, director of the UAW Fair Practices and Anti-Discrimination Dept., addressed the delegates on Civil Rights-Integration, Democracy's Challenge.

What does F.E.P.C. mean, you may ask?

It means you have a right to equal job opportunities based on your ability, regardless of race, religion or ancestry. It's the law.

Invocation was by Rev. King, of the Union Baptist Church at the noon luncheon. Also present were Dr. Paul Morrison, Central Methodist Church and Rev. Gerald Wyman from the Universalist Church.

Immediately following lunch, Jack Holt, Int'l Rep. for Education in Region 1C, who was pinch hitting for Regional Director Carter, spoke to the delegates.

"When delegates entered the auditorium at the UAW convention this past April," he said, "four diamond shaped plaques with these words greeted them. Peace, Freedom, Justice & Brotherhood. These four things are the UAW's goal. We are all children of God and in the UAW we judge people on how they act and what they are, not what color skin or what religion they have. We want Freedom for everybody and it is the moral and social responsibility of everyone. Our strength must be felt throughout the world, not just locally."

The FEPC Dept. is one of the most important Departments we have, Holt said, because we have no modern weapons to use in breaking down prejudices.

Lieutenant Governor Phil Hart despite suffering from the flu attended the luncheon, much to the pleasure of the delegates. He told the assembled group that "issues, crisis, and elections come and go but the subject for today (FEPC) goes on. This subject should have our attention all year. The Klu Kluxs and the White Supremacy groups can have their meeting, but we know that we are going to win this one and that they are going to lose. In the long haul we hold the cards."

He said that Detroit and Flint have great concentrations of all kinds of people who work literally shoulder to shoulder with very little trouble.

"In my book," Hart said, "The UAW has done the right type of educating of its members and has provided the right kind of leadership."

Referring to a recent article in a national magazine Hart said, that the article said The South says, "No, Not in a 1,000 years."

The last time he remembered anyone saying not for a thousand years was a man in the third Reich, Hart said.

#### NEW YORK NAACP BRANCH REFUNDS MEMBERSHIP FEE OF COMMUNIST

NEW YORK — The New York City branch of the NAACP has returned a donation and a membership application by Benjamin J. Davis, well-known Communist leader and former New York City councilman.

Mr. Davis' \$50 contribution and \$3.50 membership fee were submitted at an NAACP rally on Nov. 3 and payment made on Nov. 7.

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### MICH. REPUBLICANS SHOW INTEREST IN CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES

LANSING—"We're certainly pleased that at last some Michigan Republican leaders are beginning to show interest in civil rights issues," said Lt. Governor Philip A. Hart today, commenting on a civil rights speech by GOP National Committeeman John Martin of Grand Rapids.

"Speeches on civil rights are fine," continued Hart, "but action on civil rights matters in the Legislature is far more important than mere talk. During the two years Mr. Martin served in the State Senate, he introduced 42 bills, 17 resolutions, 3 amendments, and had 4 statements of his views published in the Senate Journal. Not a one of these concerned civil rights."

"There was no vote on fair employment practices legislation in the State Senate during the two years Mr. Martin was a member (1949-50)," continued the Lt. Governor, "but there has been no indication he would have disagreed with the present state chairman of the GOP and the present Republican Speaker of the State House of Representatives. Both of them, as members of the House of Representatives, voted against FEPC."

"We're proud that Michigan Democrats in Congress and Democrats in state government here in Michigan —both in the Legislature and in administrative posts — not only speak out for civil rights, but stand up and are counted when there's a chance to take practical action towards greater equality of opportunity for all."

#### APPOINT CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

#### (Continued from page 1)

the end of our struggle." It continued—"We pledge to continue to demand legislation implementing the Supreme Court's Decision Against Segregation—and other Civil Rights Laws."

Indications are based on these statements that a new campaign will be commenced at the opening of the Congress in 1958 to amend the existing Civil Rights Act to provide remedies for such incidents as the open defiance of Governor Faubus in Little Rock, as well as more concrete protection of the 14th Amendment other than the right to vote.

### NAACP ASKS EXPLANATION FROM U. S. AGENCY ON ALLEGED HOUSING BIAS

NEW YORK—Alleged racial segregation at relocation housing in Ypsilanti township, Mich., today was brought to the attention of the Federal National Mortgage Association, a governmental agency, by the NAACP.

In a letter addressed to J. Stanley Baughman, president of the Mortgage Association, NAACP Housing Assistant Madison S. Jones said: "It is alleged that F.N.M.A. is the agency which insists on a pattern of racial segregation" in the Ypsilanti relocation housing.

Mr. Jones requested a statement from the Mortgage Association "reaffirming your agency's compliance with federal policy."

The NAACP letter set forth the following situation:

Willow Run Village residents now are being displaced. On Oct. 9, the Willow Run Management issued letters of eligibility for relocation housing to 31 Negroes in Ypsilanti township and to 104 Negroes in Superior township.

A number of units in Ypsilanti township are under construction and applications are being taken from eligible families. But Negro families are being told that another project will be built for them and they must await its construction. Negroes also are being told that the Federal National Mortgage Association, which is committed to purchase the insured mortgages, will not buy such mortgages unless the applicants are segregated by race.

"This is startling information to us, as we had assumed that F.N.M.A. followed federal non-discrimination policies," Mr. Jones' letter declared.

The message called it "unconscionable" to "set up a policy of racial segregation in an area which already has experienced integration with complete accord and acceptance."

#### **REFUNDS MEMBERSHIP FEE**

(Continued from page 5) In a letter to Mr. Davis dated Nov. 9, Russell P. Crawford, president of the New York City NAACP branch, said he was returning the sums "for the reason that members of the Communist party are not eligible for membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People."

### NEW JERSEY CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING



Above Harry Ross, International Representative, conducts workshop on Employment bi Region 9—New Jersey Civil Rights Conference.



Above: Frances Levinson, Executive Director, National Committee Against Discrimination In Housing, and Reginald Johnson, Director Housing, National Urban League, Chair Housing Workshop at Region 9—New Jersey Civil Rights Conference. Director Gerber, at far right, listens to one of the Delegates.

