

had adopted a new policy which permits Negro students to be registered and admitted to the school. For several years the legal staff tried to get the school to change its policy and admit Negroes. The letter from the president stated the following:

"Down through the years, our policy with respect to acceptance of Negroes as students in this institution has been periodically reviewed by myself and our staff. Rightly or wrongly, the continuation of such policy was predicated upon the belief that until such time as reasonable understanding replaced intolerance and unreasonable prejudice in the minds of individuals, with consequent changes in mental and environmental attitudes, then actual disservice instead of equal opportunity would be the practical result to members of the Negro race admitted as students here.

"We now believe that through the gradual process of educational understanding, present day conditions encourage the change in such policy we are now making.

"We are glad, therefore, to inform your organization that Negroes will now be accepted by us for enrollment on the same basis as all other nationalities."

#### HOUSING

Lewis v. Cobo (Detroit): In June, a Reply was filed in accordance with the order of the United States District Court in Michigan to the Second Amended Answers filed by the defendants in this suit for an injunction enjoining the racial segregation policy in federally aided public housing in Detroit. Thereafter, the defendants filed an Answer to this Reply. It is expected that this case will come to trial some time in October or November. New public housing projects in Detroit are scheduled to open for occupancy on October 15th. It will then be known whether the Detroit Housing Commission intends changing the segregation policy as suggested by the court at the pre-trial conference in February, 1952. In September the Housing Commission announced that with respect to the new project a racially integrated policy would obtain.

Harris vs. Clinton (New Haven, Conn.): On June 28th an Answer to the Defendants Counterclaim and a Reply to Defendants Answer in this suit for specific performances of a contract to convey real property were filed. The re-trial of this case ordered by the Supreme Court of Errors of the State of Connecticut will probably be set for October 28 in the Court of Common Pleas for New Haven County. Plaintiff's Answer to the Counterclaim and the Plaintiffs' Reply to Defendants' Answer clearly put in issue the right of the Defendant, Clinton, a New Haven Real Estate Broker, to seek the aid of a Court to reform a written contract for the purpose of giving effect to his personal racially discriminatory policies with respect to the sale of lots in his development in West Haven, Conn.

White vs. City of Hamtramck (Michigan): Further proceedings brought in this case for the admission of Negroes to public housing projects

in the City of Hamtramck. This suit was originally filed in 1949 when the City of Hamtramck built a project for white occupancy. The City defended the suit for the admission of Negroes on the ground that it would build a separate project for Negro occupancy in the near future. The court ruled that the City could exclude Negroes from the project if it would build a separate project for Negro occupancy. In its decree the court reserved the rights of the plaintiffs to come back into the court for further relief in the event that the separate Negro project was not built. The City of Hamtramck is presently negotiating with the Public Housing Administration for federal assistance for the construction of another public housing project for white occupancy. The project for Negro occupancy has never been built. The further proceedings were therefore designed to secure the admission of Negroes to the existing project and to guarantee the admission of Negroes to any future project on a non-segregated basis. The Court ruled in September that a new action must be filed.

Ruth Crawford et al vs. Daniel H. Maher et al (Long Branch, New Jersey): On July 1st N.A.A.C.P. attorneys in New Jersey in cooperation with staff attorneys filed a complaint in the Superior Court, Monmouth County for an injunction enjoining the City of Long Branch, New Jersey Housing Authority from discriminating against qualified Negroes seeking admission to federally-aided public housing projects which were then ready for occupancy. The matter came to trial on July 3rd. After a day of trial, the defendant Housing Authority offered to enter into a Consent Decree. The capitulation of the Authority came when the court indicated that an injunction must be issued against their policy of discriminating against Negroes which was clearly established upon the trial. The decree enjoins all distinctions based on race in selection and admissions.

Matty Banks et al vs. Housing Authority of the City and County of San Francisco et al (California): On September 3rd N.A.A.C.P. attorneys in California in cooperation with staff attorneys filed a petition in the Superior Court for San Francisco County for a writ of mandamus to compel the Housing Authority for the City and County of San Francisco to certify the petitioners for admission to federally-aided, permanent, low rent housing projects without discrimination because of race or color and to admit them without such discrimination. Hearing on the petition for mandamus commenced on September 22. On October 1 Judge Melvin Cronin ruled that the segregation policy of the Authority was unlawful and enjoined the Authority from refusing to admit the petitioners to certain projects solely because of race and color. N.A.A.C.P. attorneys representing plaintiffs were Terren Francois of San Francisco, Loren Miller of Los Angeles and Nathaniel Collie of Sacramento.

Davis vs. St. Louis Housing Authority (Missouri): On June 26th, suit was filed in the United States District Court in Missouri on behalf of Ted Davis and thirteen other Negro citizens against the St. Louis Housing Authority for an injunction enjoining the Authority from refusing the plaintiffs admission to the John J. Cochran housing project which is a low rent federally aided project. The Housing Authority has announced that this project will be limited to white occupancy and that it will build a separate project for Negro occupancy in the future. The Authority has a policy of building separate projects for Negro and

white occupancy. This suit was filed by attorneys for the St. Louis branch in cooperation with staff attorneys.

Heyward vs. Housing and Home Finance et al (Savannah, Georgia): On September 8th suit was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia by staff attorneys on behalf of thirteen Negro families of Savannah, Georgia against the federal government's public housing agency in the District of Columbia. This suit is designed to enjoin the federal agency, the Public Housing Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, from giving federal assistance to the Housing Authority of Savannah for the construction and operation of a low rent project from which plaintiffs and other eligible Negro families will be excluded and denied admission solely because of race and color. The plaintiffs and other qualified Negro veteran families are former residents of the site. Under the Housing Act of 1949 such families have first preference for admission to public housing and among such families preference is given to families of veterans and servicemen. The complaint alleges that this preference is unlawfully denied the plaintiffs by the local authority's policy of limiting occupancy in the project built on the site to white persons who have not been evicted from any site. A declaratory judgment is sought that the federal government through its low rent public housing agency may not give federal assistance to the construction or maintenance of racially segregated public housing projects which are constructed by local authorities pursuant to the provisions of the Housing Act of 1949.

Omaha, Nebraska Housing Incident: On July 30th, many newspapers throughout the country reported that Negroes in a predominantly Negro community in Omaha, Nebraska had objected to having a white family move into the community. The chief counsel immediately wired the Omaha Branch requesting an investigation and offered the assistance of the legal staff to the white family. The telegram pointed out that the white family had the same constitutionally protected right to move into the neighborhood of its choice without being denied that right solely because of its race and color. As a result of prompt action by the staff in this case, the misguided Negroes immediately reversed their position and announced that the white family would be welcomed to the community. The investigation revealed that the Negro families who allegedly opposed the white family's moving in may have had other reasons for opposing them.

Connellsville, Pennsylvania Housing Incident: In June, the assistance of the legal staff was sought in the matter of discrimination in public housing projects in Connellsville, Pennsylvania. An investigation was made of the facts and it was discovered that there are no vacancies in any existing projects in that community but that new public housing would be built in the near future. The local community leaders were therefore advised to see that eligible Negro families made timely application and were advised to keep the office informed of any attempt to deny certification or admission solely because of race and color.

Veterans' Housing Complaints (Long Island, New York): The complaints of two veterans who had purchased homes from Fred Stark, a Long Island builder, were prepared by the legal staff for referral of same by the N.A.A.C.P. to the Subcommittee of the House Committee on Banking



and Currency which made an investigation of the construction of homes for sale to veterans. The Committee's investigation concerned itself primarily with the faulty construction of homes which had been sold to veterans and insured by the Veterans' Administration. Several Negro veterans in St. Albans had purchased homes from Fred Stark and had requested the assistance of the Veterans' Administration in getting the faulty construction remedied. In an attempt to broaden the scope of the Committee's investigation to include discrimination against Negro veterans, the complaints of the Negro veterans were submitted to the Committee by the N.A.A.C.P. As a result of action taken by the Committee, the Veterans' Administration in New York has been advised by the Committee to take action to see that the faulty construction of these particular homes is remedied by the builder.

Marine Terrace Housing Discrimination Incident (Astoria, L.I.): Mr. and Mrs. Chet Slocum secured a lease to an apartment in Marine Terrace, Astoria, Long Island. Mr. Slocum is white and his wife, Frances Slocum, is a Negro. When the neighbors discovered that Mrs. Slocum was a Negro, threatening anonymous phone calls were received. The Slocums contacted the Urban League of Greater New York which in turn called in the legal staff for assistance. Advice and assistance were given by the legal staff. The police department was requested to act in the matter by Roy Wilkins, Administrator of the N.A.A.C.P. As a result of the activity of the N.A.A.C.P., the Urban League and other organizations the situation was brought under control and the Slocums continue to live in the project undisturbed.

Sampson Air Base Defense Housing (New York State): The Rochester Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. in cooperation with the legal staff and the legal representative in Washington, Frank Reeves, has been working on the problem of making available to Negro servicemen, stationed at Sampson Air Force Base, defense housing which is being constructed in Waterloo, New York by private builders with F.H.A. mortgage insurance. Captian Charles H. Hutchings, dentist, and Captain Cuthbert Simpkins, dentist, sought the aid of the N.A.A.C.P. when they were denied housing by the Western New York Developers Inc., builders of the defense housing at Waterloo. As a result of pressure brought by Frank Reeves in Washington on the F.H.A., housing on the Base was made available to the Captains who had previously been denied this housing also by the Air Force. Despite the fact that the Captains have been offered housing at the base, the fight to open this particular defense housing development in Waterloo will be continued as a new contingent of Negro servicemen is due to arrive at the Base on October 1st.

St. Louis Public Housing (Missouri): Field secretaries June Shagaloff and Daniel Byrd in June met with the St. Louis Branch on the problem of segregation in public housing in St. Louis. A suit to end segregation in public housing was subsequently filed by the branch as indicated above.

Levittown: The campaign to end discrimination in Levittown, Long Island, N.Y. and in Levittown, Bucks County, Penn. continues with the advice and assistance of the legal staff. Recently, Levitt & Sons Inc. dropped its attempt to evict Adolph Ross and his family from Levittown, N.Y. because the Rosses entertained Negro children. The Levitt Corporation has permitted the Rosses to remain and has again accepted their rent.

Evansville, Indiana Public Housing Discrimination: In Evansville, Indiana the newly formed Housing Authority has begun taking applications for a federally aided permanent low rent housing project which is presently being built in a racially mixed neighborhood in the City of Evansville pursuant to the provisions of the Housing Act of 1949. The Executive Director of the Housing Authority, Kelly Jarboe, has refused to take the applications of qualified Negro veteran families for this project on the ground that a separate permanent low rent housing project is planned for Negro occupancy and will be built some time in the next four or five years. The only permanent low rent housing project in the City of Evansville is operated directly by the Public Housing Administration in Washington. It was built by the P.W.A. back in 1937 and has always been occupied solely by Negro families. Assistant Counsel Constance Baker Motley went to Evansville, Indiana in the latter part of September to assist the branch with its fight to get the Executive Director to accept Negro applicants for the new project which is scheduled to open December 1st. Meetings with the Executive Director failed to end the discrimination. The Housing Authority meets on October 10th at which time the local branch and other community organizations will demand a clear statement from the Housing Authority that there will be no segregation or discrimination with respect to selection of tenants for the new project. If the Housing Authority fails to make such a declaration on October 10th, there will be resort to the courts to compel compliance with the law.

Housing Research: The New York State Committee on Discrimination in Housing has received a grant of twenty-five hundred dollars to conduct a study of the statutory provisions, rules and regulations of the several federal housing agencies with respect to their effect on minority group occupancy in this country. The study is designed to determine whether these provisions in any respect violate the Federal Constitution and other federal statutory safeguards of civil rights. It is also designed to determine whether these rules and regulations retard or assist the development of democratic housing patterns and whether federally imposed standards affecting minority occupancy retard or assist the development of a total housing program whose goal has been declared by Congress to be "a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family." Two members of the staff, Annette Peyser and Constance Motley, have been assigned to work full time on this study.

#### RECREATION

Kansas City, Missouri vs. Esther Williams, et al: Kansas City, Missouri has appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit from a judgment of the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri ordering the admission of Negroes to the Swope Park Swimming Pool which had been reserved by the city for use by white persons only.

The district court had found that the Parade Park Pool, which had been set aside for use by Negroes, was not substantially equal to the Swope Park. The court thereupon ruled that Negro citizens of Kansas City were being denied equal protection of the laws. The trial court also ruled that the city was without power to segregated races in the use of the pool.