The North Carolina Good Neighbor Council

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EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROJECT STAFF

BOYCE C. MEDLIN, Director
J. RICHARD WOODWARD, Assistant Director

December 6, 1967

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charles Dunn

FROM: D. S Coltrane D S C

SUBJECT:

There are attached copies of Reports from Preston Hill relative to:

1. Winston-Salem -- Post Riot

2. State NAACP Meeting at Durham

DSC:bjs
Attachments

RECEIVED
DEC - 8 1967
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

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The North Carolina Good Neighbor Council

GOVERNOR DAN K. MOORE, Ex Officio Chairman

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November 29, 1967

MEMORANDUM

TO: D. S. Coltrane

FROM: Preston C. Hill

SUBJECT: Winston-Salem Post Riot Report

The City Manager of Winston-Salem, Mr. John M. Gold, informed representative that it has been recognized and accepted as a fact that the policemen's attitudes to treatment of people over the years had much to do with community attitudes and reactions. City officials are working with the police department. At a meeting, Gold suggested that the city would help any officer find another job if that officer felt he could not adjust. The words were much stronger. Verified by a police officer. The Negro community is not over-policed any more. They do not feel that the police are breathing down their necks. They are watching the city government's action and attitudes. Expect continuous progress.

EMPLOYMENT

Reynolds, Hanes Corp., Western Electric and Wachovia Bank were named as businesses with very poor over-all employment practices. There is much under-employment of Negroes in these businesses. They want more Negroes at or near the top.

City and county employment is not representative of the Negro population. It feels that there should be some Negro foremen of general work crews in the city. The city has taken employment of Negroes.

HOUSING

The airport is near the best Negro sections and expanding big jets are being brought in. There is a need for open housing. The Negroes do not want to build in the airport area because of the noise and danger. More choices of living area around and throughout

the city are needed. Public housing and housing for the aged is needed. A proposal was sent to Atlanta 18 months ago and is in Washington, D. C. now. The old people still live in old houses.

GENERAL

An old friend, Mason E. Swearingen, sends his regards
Executive Director of the Housing Authority of City of Winston-Salem
Executive Director of the Redevelopment Commission of the City of Winston-Salem

PCH:ss

cc: R. S. Harrell
L. A. Merritt
Boyce Medlin
Dick Woodward

STATE NAACP MEETING AT DURHAM
November 24 & 25, 1967

The annual state NAACP meeting began with memorial services followed by appointments of committees and the President's address. Pressure was great at this meeting because President Alexander and Field Secretary Charles McLean were being challenged for their positions. Much of the time was spent reviewing the successes of the NAACP and reminding the people that NAACP was fighting for civil rights long before other groups were thought about and before many modern day civil righters were born. The group numbered about 100 or 150, mostly middle aged and elderly people. Youth was scarce. Comments by youth indicated their dissatisfaction at the slow process used by the NAACP. NAACP will stick to its philosophy of working out problems through the courts. The adult group is trying to keep youth working within bounds of the NAACP philosophy. It was generally discussed in corridors by youth and young adults that NAACP needs new life and new ideas if it is to survive. A strong conservation organization of this type is very necessary to cut into the extremeness of the Black Power advocates. It is possible that such an organization can get Black Power advocates to stop and listen. They ask a very good question of Black Power or activists. After all the "Hell" and burning, then what do they have to offer the people, the city, state or nation?

HOUSING WORKSHOP

Rev. Kelly O. P. Goodwin feels that the people of a community need to get together more often, come to the housing or other board meetings and help the usual one representative. The individuals with the problems usually can get the problem over better than anyone else. People have to learn to make use of the opportunity to confront the government with problems that affect them. Mr. A. L. Thompson is the representative of H. U. D. The major thrust of H. U. D. (Federal Government) sight selection policy is to break down discrimination in public housing wherever it exists. New goals of H. U. D. are: 1. Conserve and expand housing for low and moderate income families. 2. Develop new employment opportunities for unemployed and underemployed. 3. Emphasize urban renewal programs for those with the most criticalneeds. Housing programs to be looked into are 203-FHA, 221-House 40 Yr. Loan-FHA, and 220 H Rehabilitation.

H. U. D. proposes to increase support for houses for larger families. The average Negro family has 4.5 children. They need diversified individual or group public housing and the poor integrated into society. Learning takes place two ways when the poor and successful people live together.

Ben Ruffin - Durham UOCI - Housing affects the economic - Houses go up for Negroes if purchased in or near white communities. Renters exploit the poor.

Education - Negroes live in one section and attend inferior schools. Whites are moving out of the city leaving old schools for Negroes. They are building new schools outside the city for whites. There is a $10,000,000 bond issue in Durham county, $7,000,000 for the county and $3,000,000 in the city. The whites are moving to the county.

Political - There are 30+ precincts in Durham and Raleigh. The Negroes all live in 3 or 4 precincts. The whites don't like the power of black vote. It is used all the time by the whites but bad now that the Negro learned to use it.

Laws need to be passed to protect the tenent's interests. If they pay by the month, the tenent has to move on a 7-day notice of the landlord. If they pay rent by the week, the tenent has to move after a 3-day notice.

Fair representation is needed for fair consideration from the government. The Durham Housing Authority has one Negro on the board out of 5 members, but public housing is 75% black. Black has little or no voting chance on a board outnumbered 4 to 1.

YOUTH MEETING
ROLE OF YOUTH IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Fuller - Community organization only counts when one can exhibit the ability to get people on the streets when needed. Talks are no good. Negro identity is needed. The people move when there is some force disturbing them. Education is harmful to the Negro as it is at this time.

Ruby Hurley, NAACP Southeast Regional Director, debated Fuller's Black Power activism instead of giving a presentation. It was quite evident that the youth were with Fuller. Fuller was attacked and the question and answer period was controlled by the people in charge and time. There was an indication that a split may result between Black Power advocates and the NAACP as a result of something that happened at this conference. As off base as Black Power advocates may be, in terms of the norms of society, they have to be dealt with. They are daring and rebellious, but they can hurt the main stream and majorities of this American society. The middle class conservatives, white and black, cannot do anything other than meet these people with force and human destruction unless the parent (gov 4) is willing to understand and try to correct the child. These people do not respect orderly process because it is too slow. They are motivated by 300 years of hate and hostility. They feel and believe that freedom must come now. They refuse to accept the fact that whites have to learn and readjust. This is looked upon as a white problem by Black Power advocates.

NAACP may have missed an opportunity to help the country when they rejected and tried to humiliate and suppress the freedom of speech of the Black Power advocates at their meeting.

Black Power, as seen with its anger and rebellion at this meeting, is a terrible threat to all Americans. These people must be reached or North Carolina must be prepared to gun down or capture and imprison a segment of its citizens.

OBSERVATIONS

Times appear crucial for the NAACP. It appears that its very existence is threatened. Open housing is the target for 1968.

Old or existing leadership has to realize that what was done yesterday or last year is now ancient history to youth. The youth live for now and want their freedom now. The youth is hard to communicate with because they are so wrapped up in the new movement that they will not listen to anything that is not immediate and action oriented. Old or existing leadership will have to become involved with youth and give guidance where it can be given until such time as youth will again respect older leadership and accept some of the same.

Local State and Federal Government could help the over-all situation by encouraging old and existing leaderships to merge with youth and try to understand and feel the realism of the youth movement. The situation cannot be helped by rejections, suppression, separation or ignoring the facts.