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SEATTLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING
September 19, 1967

File

The regular meeting of the Commission was held on Tuesday, September 19, 1967 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 304, Seattle Municipal Building.

Mr. Leckenby asked for comments on the minutes of the last three meetings. Mr. Couden moved, and Mr. Woo seconded, that they be approved as mailed. The motion was unanimously approved.

Staff announced the following:

1. A public meeting on the subject of housing to be held on Wednesday, September 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Roosevelt Hotel, sponsored by the Washington State Board Against Discrimination.
2. N.A.I.R.O. meeting on Friday, September 29, 1967, 6:30 p.m., Roosevelt Hotel, regarding youth.

Mr. Leckenby asked for Committee Reports:

Housing Committee

Mr. Stokes reported that the Committee met and discussed what could be done in the area of housing, but did not reach any conclusions, except to continue and expand surveys which staff had started.

Mr. Stokes asked staff to explain the survey.

Mr. Eichelberger related the following:

Staff received a report of a complaint by Miss Doreen Hopkins, Director of Viets, who had been unable to rent an apartment at Cassel Crag Apartments. She had advertised in a community paper her need for an apartment, and the owner/manager of Cassel Crag contacted her in answer to her ad. When she went to look at the apartment, and the owner saw that she was Negro, he told her he had no vacancies at this time. Staff visited Mr. Conner, who stated that he was not prejudiced, but that if he rented to a Negro, his other tenants would move out. After some discussion, Mr. Conner agreed to let staff conduct a confidential survey of the apartment to determine the tenants' attitudes in regard to renting to Negroes. A questionnaire was prepared and the survey was made by two Caucasian women from the School for Community Action. The survey revealed the following:

- One tenant said he did not want a unit rented to a Negro, but would not move if it were done.
- Another refused to comment.
- 13 tenants had no objection and would not move if a unit were rented to a Negro.

Mr. Stokes believed that surveys such as this could be beneficial in persuading managers, who are reluctant to rent to Negroes, to establish a policy in this regard.