

Excerpt from report of City Councilman Sam Smith, Chairman, Seminar Planning Committee for the Seminar on Equal Opportunity and Racial Harmony, May 20, 1968. Comptroller File #244930, City Clerk Comptroller Files, 1802-01. Seattle Municipal Archives.

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SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS
AND
RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM THE
SEMINAR ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
AND
RACIAL HARMONY

Sponsored by

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

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INTRODUCTION

In a memorandum to the Seattle City Council, dated December 4, 1967, Councilman Sam Smith requested that the Council sponsor a two-day seminar designed to review, and reassess the effectiveness and progress of all programs, both public and private, "dealing with the problem of Equal Opportunity and Harmonious Racial Relations."

It was proposed that the first seminar day be spent receiving reports of programs in operation, their objectives and progress, together with a projection of anticipated program expansion and progress during the next six months.

The second day of such a seminar would be spent discussing new proposals and reviewing methods of accelerating existing programs in order that goals may be achieved within a reasonable period of time and prior to mid-summer.

The seminar was to be open to the public. Participants would include community segments as business, financial and credit groups, labor, human relations representatives, grass roots personalities and ordinary citizens. All segments of government - municipal, county, state, federal - concerned with such programs were to be asked to join in sponsorship.

For the most part, all of the above requests and proposals were accomplished. A planning committee of seven persons was appointed by Council Resolution:

City Council - Sam Smith, Ted Best, Mrs. Harlan H. Edwards

Mayor's Office - Edward J. Devine, Walter Hundley

Human Rights Commission - Rev. Harvey McIntyre, Rev. Samuel McKinney

The Planning Committee chose Philip Hayasaka of the Commission and Edwin Pratt, Seattle Urban League as coordinators of the program which involved staff, agenda, and operations.

By General Agreement, the Committee decided to invite a number of well-

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known citizens to join in the efforts to make the seminar successful. Among these were:

Mr. Price Sullivan, President, Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Alan Ferguson, President, Rainier Brewery and on Chamber of Commerce
Equal Opportunity Committee
Mr. Don Starr, Publisher, Post-Intelligencer
Mr. W. J. Pennington, President, The Seattle Times
Mr. Les McIntosh, Executive Secretary, CAPI (Halfway House, Operations
Fish Hook)
Mr. James K. Bender, President, Seattle King County Labor Council
Mr. Lowell P. Mickelwait, Industrial Relations, Boeing Company
Dr. Forbes Bottomly, Superintendent, Seattle Public Schools
Mr. Alfred Cowles, Director, State Board Against Discrimination
Mr. William P. Woods, President, Washington Natural Gas
Mr. Thomas E. Bolger, President, Pacific Northwest Bell
Mr. Sid Laurens, Regional Director, Social Security Administration
Mr. Andrew Hess, Director, Federal Housing Administration
Mr. Andrew Young, President, Seattle NAACP
Mr. Charles V. Johnson, Regional Chairman, NAACP
Mrs. Ludwig Lobe, President, League of Women Voters
Mrs. Richard M. Emerson, 1st Vice-President, League of Women Voters
Mr. Ed Russell, Chairman, CORE
Reverend John H. Adams, Chairman, Central Area Civil Rights Committee
Mrs. Sloane S. Commeree, Business and Professional Women's Association
Mr. Waverly Davis, Negro Voters League
Mrs. Jack Brown, Classics Book Club
Mr. Rex Jones, SOIC Director
Rev. Herbert Lazenby, Neighborhood House
Mr. Benjamin Weeks, President, Seattle Urban League
Mr. John Peluso, President, Seattle King County Economic Opportunity Board
Mr. Art McDonald, Channel 4 KOMO
Mr. John Cherberg, KIRO
Mr. Bill Hillier, KING
Mr. Orville Robertson, Executive Secretary, Seattle King County Board of Realtors
Mr. C. Allen Benedict, President, Seattle King County Board of Realtors
Mr. Erling O. Reed, Seattle King County Board of Realtors
Mr. Vincent Hayes, Multi-service Center
Mr. Robert Flowers, Multi-service Center
Mrs. Forrest Smith, Seattle School Board
Mr. John Cannon, Yesler-Atlantic Urban Renewal Project
Mr. Carl Miller, University of Washington Black Student Union
Mrs. Clarence Ticeson, National Negro Women's Sorority
Mrs. Donald Woodhouse, National Negro Women's Sorority and State Department
of Public Assistance
Mr. Jess Ramaker, Boeing Company
Mr. Richard Carter, East Madison Branch, YMCA
Rev. James H. Stewart, Ecumenical Ministry
Mr. Robert L. Thompson, Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Neal S. Warren, Internal Revenue
Mr. Louis R. Guzzo, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer
Mrs. Beatrice M. Hudson, Yesler-Atlantic N. I. Project

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Mr. Les Streeter, The Seattle Times
Mr. B. T. Poor, Washington Natural Gas Company
Mr. Robert Reed, Neighborhood House
Mr. Barry Hilliard, Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Robert L. Williams, Seattle Public Schools
Mr. Winslow Whitman, State Board Against Discrimination
Mr. Winfield S. King, Seattle Musicians, Local #76
Mrs. Anita Jones, Operation Equality
Mrs. Hilda Bryant, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer
Mr. John B. Kirsch, Trans Administration
Mr. Keith Hughes, Atlantic N. I. Project
Mr. Michael K. Houder, SE
Mr. Russell Gideon, Central Kiwanis
Mr. James I. Kimbrough
Mr. Avery Willis, Washington Natural Gas Company
Mr. Roger Thibault, United Good Neighbors
Mrs. B. Gloria Anderson, Employment Security
Mrs. Sylvia Ryan, American Association, University of Washington, Highline Branch

A series of full Seminar Planning Committee meetings produced the following:

I. TIME SCHEDULE

February 19, 1968

Compile list of all agencies, organizations, associations and firms that will be requested to submit a written report to the seminar. Included in the list will be the name of the individual to whom the request will be made.

February 20-21, 1968

Mail letters requesting report, stating also that selected agencies, etc., will be asked to make a verbal report at the seminar workshops.

March 8, 1968

Deadline for written reports from agencies, etc., to be returned

March 22, 1968

First day of the seminar

April 6, 1968

Second day of the seminar

II. WRITTEN AND VERBAL REPORTS

Request that the following topics be included in the reports:

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1. What specific programs are currently being conducted by your organization that are designed to relieve racial tensions?
 - A. Your evaluation of program since its inception?
 - B. Your estimation of program accomplishments in next six months?
2. What specific problems are being encountered by your organization in the implementation of your program?
3. What programs does your organization propose to conduct in the next three months -- six months -- twelve months?
4. What are your recommendations of what needs to be done by other organizations?

III. ADDITIONAL SEMINAR STAFF ASSISTANCE

To assist in compiling a list of all agencies, organizations, associations and firms that will be requested to submit a report and to assist in carrying out the plans of this seminar committee, the following persons agreed to volunteer their services?

Housing ----- Andrew Hess, F. H. A.
Employment ----- Robert Thompson, Chamber of Commerce
Education ----- Robert Williams, Seattle Schools
Public Safety ----- Charles Johnson, N.A.A.C.P.
Community ----- Roger Thibadeau, U. G. N.

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES AND FORMAT

PURPOSE

The chance to achieve equal opportunity and racial harmony in the Seattle

area has been limited due to a lack of communication, an unwillingness to develop meaningful action programs, a disbelief in the extent of racial disharmony and a lack of stated official concern.

The purpose of this seminar, therefore, is to further close the gaps between knowledge of problems and programs to alleviate them.

OBJECTIVES

1. On-going programs will be reviewed and re-assessed with recommendations for extension and alteration where necessary.
2. To bring industry, labor, governmental agencies, civil rights organizations, community groups and average citizens together for honest exploration and evaluation of where Seattle must be within the immediate future.
3. To suggest needed action programs which various organizations, citizens' groups and governmental agencies may be able to implement in order to achieve meaningful opportunity and racial harmony.

FORMAT

It is proposed that the two day workshop provide ample opportunity for participation by those in attendance. Such persons will come from all segments of the Seattle community. It is to be a public workshop.

After a keynote speaker sets the tone and guidelines, concurrent sessions will be held on housing, employment, education, public safety and community. Each of these subject areas will receive reports on present programs with responses coming from all persons gathered, plus three designated individuals with specific responsibility to respond. These three individuals should represent professionals in the field of human relations, grass roots or average citizens, and the vocal young voices of the community.

The three pre-selected responding individuals (monitors) were to observe, evaluate, criticize and/or praise reports given in each group. These appraisals, along with group recommendations, served as the basis of discussion during the second seminar day.

GUIDELINES FOR MONITORS

- The Seminar has attempted to plan for the most effective use of the knowledge which you bring.
- As we work to develop an accurate assessment of where the City of Seattle stands in moving toward or resisting change, your experience will be extremely valuable.
- It is important that the discussions in your session center around some specific, key questions:
 1. What needs to be done in Seattle to improve the conditions of Negroes?
 - a. Immediate
 - b. Long-range
 2. Who are the people who can make the decisions to do something about changes which need to be made?
 3. Why don't they make the decisions?
 4. What can be done to help the right people make the decisions?
- In this way, it is anticipated that the Monitors, as well as all in attendance, will develop an accurate assessment of where the action is now and where it should be within a ninety (90) day period.

Subdivision of the reporting groups were as follows:

A. EMPLOYMENT

1. Business and Industry
2. Associations
3. Labor
4. Utilities
5. Governmental

B. EDUCATION

1. Secondary
2. Higher Education
3. Association/Government

C. HOUSING

1. Sales and Rental
2. Voluntary Groups
3. Financial

D. PUBLIC SAFETY

1. City
2. County/ City
3. Associations

E. COMMUNITY

1. Private Organizations
2. Churches
3. Public Agencies

Letters requesting written reports from organizations, agencies, associations and firms were sent to 850 groups. The 202 responses were compiled into a handbook for easy reference evaluation. The book, following the above outline, now serves as a point of measurement in future assessment of improved and accelerated efforts during the early 1968 to minimize human relations problems.

Letters were also sent to representatives of the subdivisions requesting verbal reports at the first day of the seminar. Monitors were then assigned to the session where their specific knowledge would be valuable.

An Agenda for the Seminar's first day follows:

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Washington Junior High School

March 22, 1968

12:30 p.m. Registration -- Gymnasium Foyer

1:50 p.m. General Session -- In Gymnasium

Opening remarks -- Master of Ceremonies

Greeting -- Mayor

Keynote Address -- Henry B. Tolliafero, Jr.
Director of Congressional Relations
National Advisory Commission on
Civil Disorders

3:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions -- in designated rooms

Housing -- Rooms 102,103,104,110

Community -- Rooms 107,108,109,111,113

Employment -- Rooms 115,116,119,122,124

Education -- Rooms 120, 121, 123, 126

Public Safety -- Rooms 130,131,132,134,137

5:30 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. General Session -- In Gymnasium

Reconvene seminar -- Master of Ceremonies

Address -- Henry B. Tolliafero, Jr.

Summary Reports of Afternoon Session

8:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions -- In designated rooms (same as afternoon)

Questions and answers based on summary reports

9:40 p.m. General Session -- In Gymnasium

Further directions and guidelines

10:00 p.m. Adjourn