

NATIONAL NEWS NOTES

JOBS AND TRAINING FOR MINORITIES

A \$970,631.00 contract with the Washington, D. C.-based Southern Railway Company to help train and provide jobs for 1,164 minorities, disadvantaged and unemployed during 1977, was announced recently by the Employment and Training Administration of the U. S. Department of Labor.

The one-year agreement continues a similar program conducted by Southern in 1976, which resulted in the training of 1,230 persons and their subsequent placement in various mechanical, clerical, informational, and train service jobs throughout Southern's 10,500-mile system in 13 southeastern states.

Individuals selected for training will be recruited from the areas in which they will be offered jobs. The selection will be made in cooperation with U. S. Employment offices, and other federal and state agencies.

US FIRMS AID AFRICAN EXPLOITATION

NEW YORK — An executive of the National Council of Churches has told 35 businesses here that sell or advertise the South African Krugerrand that they have "perhaps unintentionally become an accessory to repression and exploitation."

Robert C. S. Powell, the Council's Africa director, said in a letter to New York area businesses that U. S. sales of the gold South African coins are helping the white regime solve its balance of payments crisis and maintain "a social stability that is based on decades of racial injustice."

"Selling this gold is like selling the blood of black Africa miners," Powell said. He added that South African government officials need U. S. dollars to "continue their repression and killing of any blacks who fight for what is theirs."

Noting that "one major department store in New York when urged to stop selling the Krugerrand agreed to do so," Powell called on the retailers and advertisers to also "desist from selling the Krugerrand obtained from cheap black labor in the mines."

END PRIVATE BIAS

NEW YORK — Regarding the "recent flurry" over Attorney General-designate Griffin Bell's club memberships, the President of the National Conference of Christians and Jews says that the more shameful fact is that "in every major city in this country there are still some social and country clubs which refuse to admit blacks, Jews, Native Americans, Puerto Ricans, Mexican Americans, Asians or women."

Dr. David Hyatt, in a statement issued from the NCCJ's national headquarters here, said that although open membership in social and country clubs has a lower priority as opposed to the needs of minority groups for equal opportunity in jobs, housing and education "it is nevertheless a shameful practice on which the spotlight of public opinion must be focused until it is finally eliminated."

He called upon all social and country clubs to change their past practices and open their doors to all Americans regardless of race, creed, or color.

He urged all NCCJ staff and lay leadership, through its network of 70 regional offices and 200 chapters, "to make every possible effort through personal contact, discussions and conferences, to sensitize community leaders and club officers and members to this sin of exclusion because of race, creed, or sex."

EEOC LITIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission coming off its busiest litigation year ever, filed 99 lawsuits and court settlements between July 1 and September 30, 1976. The legal actions were taken to aid victims of job discrimination.

The Office of General Counsel reports that the five regional offices handling EEOC litigation continued processing cases at an accelerated pace during the transition quarter. That was the three-months added to the fiscal year in 1976 to make fiscal years end September 30 instead of June 30 from now on.

During the normal 12 month span of Fiscal Year 1976, the EEOC filed 414 lawsuits and court settlements. The 99 actions initiated during the transition quarter make a total of 513 filings for the extended 1976 fiscal year. That figure dwarfs the previous high of 318 total court-filed actions recorded during FY 1975.

Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended in 1972, the EEOC initiates civil action in Federal district court when conciliation efforts fail to end job discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The EEOC is the Government's sole litigant of Title VII matters in the private sector.

Arthur Unger, TV critic for The Christian Science Monitor, says, "The Monitor doesn't feel it has to review TV shows that aren't worthwhile. Our function is to help readers not waste time - help them become more selective viewers." Would that this feeling would go for some movie critics - those that can use up nearly a whole page damning a film. If it takes up all that space to say it's so bad it could whet up the appetites of some readers to plunk down \$4 to go see it."

The Small Business Administration reportedly is challenging the eligibility of 15 firms in Southeastern states to participate in a program for minorities. The report states that more than half of 29 firms the SBA audited apparently are not controlled by blacks, Latins, or other disadvantaged people as required by law.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Thomas Bradley has announced his candidacy for a second term to head the nation's third largest city. In NYC, Manhattan Borough President is reported ready to announce he is running for mayor even if Mayor Beame seeks reelection.

Illinois Prison Charged With Bias And Cruelty

The Department of Justice filed civil suits charging widespread deprivations of the civil rights of inmates of the 17 Illinois state penal facilities with the Cook County Jail in Chicago.

According to the Department the state suit charged that state officials have violated the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution by inflicting cruel and unusual punishment on inmates and depriving them of life and liberty without due process of law.

Attorney General Edward H. Levi said one suit was filed in U. S. District Court in Springfield, Illinois, against Governor Daniel Walker, Charles Rowe, acting director of the department of corrections, and the state.

A second suit was filed in U. S. District Court in Chicago against Cook County Sheriff Richard Elrod, the 16 county

commissioners, Rowe, Winston Moore, executive director of the county department of corrections, and the state.

The 17 adult state penal institutions and facilities house some 9,700 inmates. The county jail houses more than 4,000 inmates on any given day.

The suit said the state has failed to provide safe and sanitary living conditions by overcrowding.

Both suits asked the courts to issue permanent injunctions forbidding state and county officials from continuing the alleged unconstitutional practices and requiring them to improve penal conditions to meet constitutional standards.

The state suit also asked the court to order state officials to abolish racial segregation in penal institutions and to end all alleged discriminatory practices.

Joan Little Files Grievance With NCCG

RALEIGH (CCNS) — Joan Little has filed a grievance with the North Carolina Inmates Grievance Commission charging unequal treatment at the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women.

Ms. Little's complaint to the Grievance Commission grew out of her being charged with an infraction of prison contraband after a search of her room by Captain Max Barbour. Barbour's search of another inmate's room on the same day disclosed items prohibited by the prison but that inmate, Nancy Sloop, was not charged with an offense.

Ms. Little said that she questioned Barbour about the unequal treatment and he said that "while all inmates are equal they are not treated equal." Barbour did not deny the statement but said that it was taken out of context. Barbour said that Sloop was not charged because it was her first offense. Ms. Sloop's contraband was found a few days prior to her parole review by the N. C. Parole Commission.

The charge came just two weeks before Ms. Little was reviewed for parole by the N. C. Parole Commission. Her

parole was denied by the Commission because Chairman Jack Scism said that she disobeyed a prison official last July and got into a fight with an inmate that same month.

The Parole Commission was considering paroling Ms. Little to Virginia to the Catholic Diocese, after refusing to consider paroling her to her home in eastern North Carolina. Chairman Jack Scism said Ms. Little's request was denied because her recognition in eastern North Carolina was great and would lead to reaction from white supremacists in North Carolina. Interviewed at the prison, Ms. Little said that following Parole Analyst L. M. Mitchell telling her that the Commission would only parole her to live outside of North Carolina, she chose to do so to get out of prison although she does not want to leave the state.

Now eligible for work release, Ms. Little is looking for a job. Her parole request will be considered again in August.

Ms. Little says that she is being given unequal treatment at NCCG because of her 1975 acquittal for the murder of 62

year-old Beaufort County jailer Clarence Alligood during a sexual attack from her by that jailer.

Ms. Little said that whites inside the prison continue to display racist sentiments towards her as a result of her appeal. She displayed a Christmas card addressed "To Black Joan Little," which read, "May you enjoy all the turkey and dressing in jail and not out on bail, also your life's story of crime and murder bring a lot of



Ms. Little



MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE — Member of the House Committee on Assassinations said in its final report the question of whether racial biases existed in the assassinations of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King still is unresolved, and urged the new congress to continue the investigation. Members of the committee are (L-R) Walter E. Fauntroy, D., D. C., Richard Sprague, chief counsel of the committee, and Thomas N. Downing, D., Va., chairman of the committee. (UPI).

happiness to a 'clear conscience' on this year's 22nd Xmas. A friend of Alligood's said the card was postmarked Rockwell, N. C. December 20,

the day of Ms. Little's parole denial. Rockwell, located in Rowan County, has been a Ku Klux Klan stronghold since confederate soldiers flocked to the Klan during Reconstruction. North Carolina's Grand Dragon during the 1960's, Robert (Bob) Jones, lived in Rockwell.

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