

CIVIL RIGHTS UPDATE

PRIVATE SCHOOLS: The Internal Revenue Service is digesting a solid week of pre-Christmas testimony on guidelines it has proposed to determine whether certain private schools claiming tax exemptions (for themselves and their donors) don't discriminate.

In a decision upheld by the United States Supreme Court, a U.S. District Court ruled in 1971 that racially-discriminatory private schools can't qualify for tax-exempt status.

But until now, IRS established no criteria to determine who was discriminating, in spite of prodding by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and others.

There are 18-20,000 private elementary and secondary schools in the nation, but the focus of the proposed IRS guidelines is on those which (1) have been adjudicated to be racially discriminatory (20 schools) or (2) were created or substantially expanded concurrently with desegregation in their communities and have little or no minority student enrollment (up to 3,500 schools).

The guidelines offer several ways for those schools in the "adjudicated" or "suspect" groups to show non-discriminatory intent or performance.

But most of the 250 witnesses spoke against the guidelines. Estimates of the number of letters which have poured into IRS and Congress - nearly all opposed - exceed 150,000.

The Civil Rights Commission supported the IRS effort as necessary to federal civil rights enforcement.

RESIDENCE PROOF: A Los Angeles Superior Court judge has upheld county regulations requiring aliens applying for relief payments to prove that they are legal residents entitled to remain in this country indefinitely.

MED SCHOOLS: Black enrollment in the nation's 124 medical schools has dropped, despite an increase in overall enrollment.

Black students now comprise 6.4 per cent of the freshman class, compared to 6.7 per cent last year.

A breakdown of the nation's 62,242 med students shows: 86.4 per cent are white, 5.7 are black, 3.6 Hispanic, 2.6 Asian-American, 0.3 native American, and 1.4 are foreign students.

SUPREME COURT: The Supreme Court has agreed to review a decision in which an employer, with no proven history of racial discrimination, was ordered not to give special job preference to minority workers.

Brian Weber, a Kaiser aluminum plant worker in Gramercy, La., complained of "reverse discrimination" four years ago when he was bypassed for an in-plant craft training program which called for 50 per cent black and female participation.

The U.S. District Court in New Orleans and the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the program was not legal because there was no proof of past discrimination in the plant.

INDIAN SUIT: Impoverished Indians on 300 reservations have filed a class action suit against the Department of Agriculture, charging it with failure to implement year-old federal antihunger programs for reservations.

Congress wrote special provisions into the Food Stamp Act in September 1977 to allow, among other things, both the food stamp and commodity programs to operate on the same reservation, provided that the same persons didn't participate in both.

The USDA still hasn't implemented the law, Indian spokesmen complained.

NEW GUIDELINES: The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued new affirmative action guidelines last month stating that employers and unions have a legal obligation to "eliminate barriers to equal opportunity" without waiting for a government nudge.

The guidelines were designed to assure supportive employers of protection from liability "to the greatest possible extent," according to EEOC chief Eleanor Holmes Norton.

They encouraged "self-analysis" by employers and a "reasonable basis" for a.a. programs that could include goals and timetables.

WOMEN'S CREDIT: Blommingdale's department store has agreed to pay \$50,000 in civil penalties for allegedly discriminating against women credit applicants, making it the first company ever to pay a civil penalty under the 1975 Equal Credit Opportunities Act.

In an action brought against 16 of its New York, Washington, D.C., and Boston area stores by the Federal Trade Commission, it was accused of failing to consider alimony, child support and separate maintenance payments or income from part-time jobs, welfare payments, pensions, etc. of some female applicants.

DROPOUTS OUTEARN: A white male high school dropout earns substantially more than a white female with a college degree, a new federal study shows.

White male dropouts averaged \$9,379 earnings in 1976, white female college educated women earned \$7,176.

WOMEN MINERS: The nation's second largest producer of bituminous coal, Pittsburgh-based Consolidated Coal has agreed to pay \$370,000 to women it refused to hire as coal miners in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The company settled its 1½-year-old suit out of court, commenting that since 1975, it has been hiring females at a rapid rate.

It's present employee force is 21,000.

COLLEGE ATHLETICS: Final federal guidelines on how not to be guilty of sex discrimination in school athletic programs should be ready by March, says Joseph Califano, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Califano hopes to have them in force by fall. He unveiled a draft last month. Interested parties, including colleges and men's and women's athletic associations were given 60 days to submit their reactions.

Federal law (Title IX) passed in 1972 called for an end to sex discrimination in any "educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance," which some interpreted as calling for equal per capita spending for male and female intercollegiate athletics.

In 1974, Congress added a clarifier that the regulations should "include reasonable provisions considering the nature of the sports."

While the guidelines upgrade sports opportunities for women, they also permit some differences based on costs of a particular sport and scope of competition.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING: The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) funded a \$186,000 study of minority participation in public broadcasting, and the results are in: it's part of the problem, they show.

A 28-member task force spent 18 months to produce a 496-page document which details how the medium's three major organizations, CPB, National Public Radio, and Public Broadcasting Service, are failing to meet the needs of minorities in programming, decision-making, employment, and training.

The CPB Board will mull the report's findings and come up with recommendations by May, it promises.

MATERNITY LEAVE: United Airlines can't require its stewardesses to take unpaid maternity leave in early pregnancy.

The Supreme Court has allowed that decision, by the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court to stand.

LENDING PRACTICES: Home financing discrimination is based more on race than on property location, a comprehensive new study shows.

The Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies looked at lending practices in New York City - Long Island, Rochester, Syracuse, Buffalo, and the Albany-Schenectady-Lenox areas.

In all but the latter area, mortgage applications of blacks were twice as likely to be turned down as those of whites, although socio-economic, property, and neighborhood characteristics were similar.

POLICE PREJUDICE: A highly-decorated black San Francisco police officer who said he could cope with guns being aimed at him but couldn't put up with co-workers who "just don't accept blacks" has been awarded a disability pension.

Mounting racial tension on the force in recent years have him high blood pressure, he testified to the retirement board.

BOY SCOUTS: The Boy Scouts of America discriminate against boys with physical handicaps, federal court suit alleges.

Representing three Scouts with muscular dystrophy and one with cerebral palsy, the New Jersey Public Advocates accused the Scout organization of violating the 1973 federal Rehabilitation Act, by accepting federal financial aid while maintaining a discriminatory advancement program.

The four were denied Eagle, second-class, and Tenderfoot awards because they weren't allowed to substitute oral exams for physical tests.

SEPARATE TOILETS: Maryland's Attorney General says separate toilets for men and women are prohibited under the state's equal rights amendment.

Responding to a shopping center developer, The AG punned, in a four-page "legally-sound" decision, that: "It is our hope this opinion will also flush away what has been a scare argument against the passage of the federal ERA."

CIVIL ACTIONS: In recent civil actions, the U.S. Department of Justice has filed against:

- A Fauquier County, Virginia roller skating rink owner, who allegedly denied admission to blacks;

- A Franklin, Tennessee restaurant owner, charging he wouldn't serve blacks;

- An Atlanta, Georgia apartment complex owner, alleging refusal to consider the income of women under 28 in determining financial qualifications of married couples seeking rentals; and

- A Fort Lauderdale, Florida real estate firm, charging violation of the Fair Housing Act by sending letters to white homeowners in a subdivision with increasing black homeownership, warning that they would lose substantial sums of money unless they took action.

It also obtained a consent decree from a Dallas, Texas real estate developer to sell home sites and make mortgage loans to black persons and Hispanics.

CHICAGO GUILTY: The city of Chicago has been ordered to pay nearly \$3 million in damages to 225 female Department of Public Works employees.

The federal judge who found the city guilty of violating federal civil rights laws ordered awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$52,880.

He also stayed his decision giving the city time to appeal.

WOMEN LEGISLATORS: Women now represent a total of 10.2 per cent of the members of all state legislatures.

Figures from the National Women's Education Fund show that the recent election increased their presence from 703 to 761.

More than 25 per cent of New Hampshire's legislature is now female. In the Colorado, Vermont, Connecticut, an Washington legislatures, they comprise from 18 to 22 per cent.

In six states - Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Utah - women comprise less than 4 per cent.

FAST FINISH: The Year 1978 ended with a rush of U.S. Civil Rights Commission activity. During December, it:

- Issued a report on the experiences of 14 states which have added Equal Rights Amendments to their constitutions;

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Urban League To Co-Sponsor Conference

In a major effort to foster greater awareness and understanding of how the urban environment impacts on the lives of city residents, the National Urban League has joined with two other organizations, the Sierra Club and the Urban Environment Conference and Foundation, in the co-sponsorship of a national conference scheduled for this Spring, April 8-11 in Detroit.

While the "environment" is most often thought of in terms of areas outside the city, inner-city residents are confronted with special environmental concerns including massive air pollution and the need for improved housing, adequate sanitation efforts, better rodent control and more recreational and open space facilities.

It is these concerns that have led the National Urban League to become the first national minority-based organization to enter the environmental education, and an environmental job study and now through co-sponsorship of the April meeting which has been titled "City Care - Toward a Coalition for the Urban Environment."

Funds for the Conference are being provided through grants from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

The Conference will bring together inner city residents, environmentalists, labor leaders, business leaders and others to gain a consensus on how to improve the quality of life in the nation's urban area.

Conference objectives include identifying a national agenda to advance cooperation among labor, environmental and community groups; melding the socio-economic environment more closely with the physical environmental improvement

Blacks Are Still at the Bottom of the Heap

BY ALFREDA L. MADISON

America's human rights certainly seem to be extending more to foreigners than to black Americans who have played a vital role in every phase of the country's growth from the very beginning.

Senator Humphrey, of New Hampshire, held a press conference explaining a bill he plans to introduce in the Senate for increased Vietnamese immigration. Among the reasons given by the senator is that there is extreme discrimination against Vietnam's ethnic Chinese. He further stated that many of these Vietnamese were United States supporters; they placed their faith in this country. He asked the question is it morally correct to ignore them? The same reasons that Mr. Humphrey gave for bringing Vietnamese to the United States for jobs, certainly more justifiably apply to black Americans.

When I questioned Mr. Humphrey about bringing foreigners to this country for jobs, while about one-fourth of black Americans are unemployed, and all one has to do is look around and see these outsiders holding jobs that were traditionally black, he said that these foreigners worked for a below the minimum wage salary and that it was it was the hard core blacks that were not trained for these jobs. I was compelled to tell the senator that if these and the hard core untrained blacks, it is a terrible indictment on the United States not have trained them but instead allowed them to become hard core. When Mr. Humphrey who took an oath to uphold the laws of the country says foreigners work for a below the minimum wage, he is encouraging subverting the law rather than compliance.

There are many trained blacks who can't find jobs. Fred Williams, of Senator Birch Bayh's staff has an immense file of black professionals who qualify and would like to have professional jobs on the staffs of congressmen or committees, but only tokenism in black hiring exists here in Capitol Hill. These legislators who passed non-discriminatory employment laws are the greatest violators of them. In fact, they exempted themselves from the law and the Senate refuses to let discussion of their discriminatory practices, come up on the floor. In talking to Minority Senator Leader Baker, last spring, about having the bill for fair employment congressional practices brought up on the floor, he said that the Senate should straighten itself out, but because of more pressing business, the Senate could not take up that issue. I asked was any issue more important than implementing the mandates of the Constitution which give equal justice to all of its citizens?

Justice Thurgood Marshall, in a speech recently, at Howard University stated that blacks have made some progress but that everybody has made progress. However, he said that the gap is widening between blacks and whites. Unemployment among blacks is approximately 23 per cent and to observe closely the actions of both the executive and legislative branches of our government, there appears to be just about a negligible effort to provide jobs and justice for blacks.

The President's budget, really makes cuts in the job programs. To expect the private sector to employ minorities, seems almost a futile hope. Even when some corporate venture programs to correct their unjust hiring practices, they are quite likely to be faced with law suits by whites who yell, "reverse discrimination". There has to be a reversal of some practices in order to correct a wrong. Blacks are looking with hopeful expectation upon

the Supreme court's decision in the Weber Kaiser Aluminum

OPINION

BY RALPH WILLIAMS

Last week I had the opportunity to visit one of our penal, excuse me, rehabilitation institutions.

As you approach the grounds, excuse my lack of knowledge, campus, you notice the lack of landscaping, lack of color, sterile walls and an overall heavy atmosphere feelings of hopelessness. I know, that correctional institutions are not suppose to be inviting or cheery. They are to keep cloistered hope, faith and charity, these structures radiate hopelessness and the non-productive attitudes that germinate in these surroundings.

We know the reason for our correctional institutions is to keep incorrigibles from joining with the family. But why do our public school have to have this self same drab exterior. When I approach our public institutions of learning, I see drab buildings, little or no landscape and most have no color or individuality about them. The buildings are just there.

Upon entering most of our public schools, a visitor is instantaneously captured by the atmosphere of sterile walls (and the omnipresent smell of anesthesia) with no pictures of living folks, community leaders, or known landmarks in our city especially the community, on the walls of these institutions. Void are quotes of Martin Luther King, Langston Hughes and Frederick Douglass. Quotes or slogans of eight to ten words on the walls of our schools would allow our children to learn about their personages, their messages and their meanings. For it is with the assistance of the past that we can make our children dedicated and responsible on/in any job.

Not only are the walls of our schools sterile of life giving and rewarding messages, but the halls are sterile of parents. In most of our public schools there are no active parents (non-paid parents) in the school, very few, if any non paid parents doing voluntary work and very few parents able to keep abreast of the educational development of our children, parents are made to feel unwanted and unimportant in education. This is the case, irrespective of what professional administrators of education recite.

In closing, we must develop a guideline for ourselves and the community e.g.

"I WILL HELP EVERY BLACK CHILD TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS TO SURVIVE. I WILL TEACH THAT THE HIGHEST GOOD IN LIFE IS TO SERVE BLACK PEOPLE. HELPING ALL BLACK PEOPLE IN THE STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE."

case. There also there is the Sears case. Rev. Jesse Jackson says that if something can't be worked out with Sears, maybe there will have to be boycott consideration.

Black Americans still must seriously devise ways to become first class citizens of these United States and now allow white America to elevate all foreigners, who have had no part in America's growth, to a higher echelon of citizenship than the blacks.



The state with the most automobiles is California, with 10,832,649 cars.

At last there's a savings account that could save you.



Central Carolina Bank's On Call Savings allows you to write a check for more money than you have in your checking account. So you can get money instantly in times of emergency. When you need it most.

There's no minimum deposit required with On Call Savings. Plus there are no fees until it's used. And even then it's cheaper than an overdraft.

To get On Call Savings just come by any CCB office and sign up for it. All you need is a CCB Personal Savings Account and a CCB Regular Checking Account.

Then should you ever need more money than you have in your checking account, we'll see that the exact amount is borrowed from your savings to cover your payment.

But don't worry, you won't eat up all your savings. With the exclusive Savings Protector, you simply select the minimum balance you want to maintain in your savings account. We'll stop making payments whenever that balance is reached.

CCB's On Call Savings is emergency cash on call. It could not only save your checking account, it could save you, too.

On Call Savings
CCB We'll help you find a way.
Member FDIC