

Several Federal Judges Belong To Segregated, All-White Social Clubs

Three out of five federal judges in the South and probably a majority in the nation belong to segregated, all-white social clubs, according to the report released today by the Southern Regional Council of Atlanta.

In survey of the social club memberships of federal judges in eleven Southern states and four non-Southern cities, the civil rights-research organization found that of the 127 Southern federal district judges, 58 per cent belong to a social club or association that has never had a black or other minority as a member. Southern federal circuit court judges were even more likely to have segregated memberships. Sixty-one per cent circuit judges belong to all-white clubs.

"A crisis of conscience exists in the country's federal judiciary," says Steve Suits, SRC executive director and author of the report. "The prevalence of memberships in segregated clubs and associations among federal judges endangers the appearance of impartiality and fairness of the third branch of the government."

Results of the survey, undertaken over the past nine months, show that the pattern of segregated associations is not confined to the South. Federal circuit and district court judges in four non-Southern cities — Los Angeles, St. Louis, Chicago, and Baltimore — were only slightly less likely to belong to all-white clubs. Fifty-one per cent of the judges in these cities hold such memberships.

In the Southern states, Florida had a larger percentage of judges with exclusive club memberships than any other state. The majority of federal judges in every Southern state except South Carolina belonged to all-white clubs. The judges in the district courthouse in Birmingham, Houston,

Miami, and Dallas represented the largest numbers of judicial officers with segregated club memberships of any Southern location in the study.

One federal judge in Miami, Florida, had memberships in six segregated clubs. Most judges belong to only one such club.

The survey does not identify by name individual judges who belong to all-white clubs. "There is no attempt to embarrass any individual. The issue is whether any judge can properly belong to such clubs," says Suits, "and the problem is that segregated clubs are the preference of most federal judges."

The report is based upon information collected from published sources, civil rights organizations, lawyers, and club members as of January 1, 1979. No judges appointed since that time were included in the study.

The issue of membership in segregated clubs has been before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee recently when Memphis federal judge Bailey Brown refused to resign his membership in an all-white club in order to be confirmed for a circuit judgeship. After delaying negotiations, Judge Brown agreed to "suspend" his membership last Monday and the vote on his confirmation is expected soon.

The SRC report also cites an incident involving federal district judge David Belew who took office in May. When asked about the questioning before the Senate Judiciary by a local reporter, Judge Belew responded "that the questionnaire about niggers did come up." Since the first of the year, the Senate Judiciary Committee has required all nominees to the federal bench to complete a questionnaire that includes a question about membership in all-white clubs.

ship in all-white clubs.

"Our findings demonstrate that the question of all-white club memberships must be faced and resolved by the entire federal court system," the SRC director stated. "It is time for collective soul-searching," he added.

The report calls for the U.S. Judicial Conference, the administrative arm of the federal courts, or the U.S. Supreme Court, to consider the issue and "the fundamental eroding effect that such widespread conduct by judges has upon the foundation of the judiciary."

The SRC recommends that the Code of Judicial conduct be interpreted to prohibit judicial officers from belonging to clubs and associations that never have had Black or other minority members.

If the court fails to address the problem, Suits says that Congress and the President should exert "moral leadership to show that public officials even in the judicial branch must avoid the appearance of bias." The SRC suggests that Congress and the President confer with members of the federal judiciary and "within the limits" use constitutional powers to require the courts' judges to address the issue.

Also, the report asks that Congress and the President set a firm policy of refusing to nominate or confirm anyone who maintains membership in all-white clubs or associations.

Referring to two other recent SRC studies on the federal judiciary, Suits noted that "today we have a court system that has only a handful of black judges, maintains discriminatory employment practices that no other agency would be permitted to have, and, as we see now, has most of its judges going to dinner at segregated, all-white clubs. The integrity of the courts are in jeopardy."



Dr. Mary M. Townes, professor and chairman of the department of biology at North Carolina Central University, has been appointed acting dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at NCCU. She is the second woman and the first natural scientist to hold the post. She has been a member of the NCCU faculty since 1950 and has held the rank of professor since 1968.

'Rocket' Hair Dryers Recalled

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the manufacturer of the "Rocket Blower", a commercial hair dryer used nationwide in beauty salons patronized primarily by blacks, has announced a voluntary program for the removal and replacement of asbestos heat shields in the hair dryers. The correction program has been accepted by the Commission as adequate.

The manufacturer, Bonat Inc., of West Paterson, New Jersey, estimates that since 1972, approximately 1,000 of the special purpose hair dryers have been sold to distributors for resale to beauty salons. The company estimates that perhaps 500 individual beauty salons currently may be using the "Rocket Blower".

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Reg. \$13. Yarn dyed stripes on polyester/cotton broadcloth. Full-cut fit, spread collar. Long sleeved, sizes 14 1/2-17. Short sleeved, reg. \$11. Sale 8.80

Sale 9.60

Reg. \$12. Cool tone-on-tone shadow stripes of polyester/cotton. Full-cut fit, spread collar. Long sleeved, sizes 14 1/2-17. Short sleeved, reg. \$10. Sale \$8

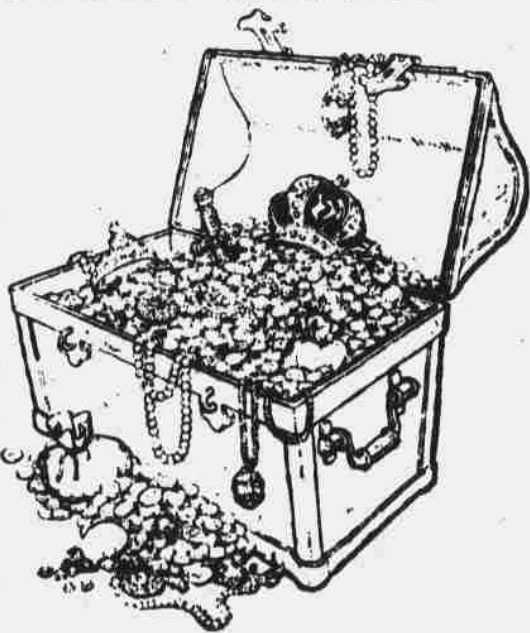
A Treasure Awaits You at Ward's 20th Anniversary Celebration

The Wards Family has served people's furniture needs in the Triangle area for twenty years. Wards Furniture Mart has carried a tradition of service and affordable price since 1959.

To celebrate their 20 years of successful business, Wards is having a Treasure Chest Give-Away. You could win up to \$400 worth of gift certificates to apply towards any item in the store.

Here's how the contest works: Stop by Wards now through October 20th and register to win a chance to select one of 20 treasure chests. Each chest contains a gift certificate with a value from \$50 to \$400. 10 names will be drawn from the registration box on October 20th. If you are one of the lucky winners, you will be notified by letter that you have won the opportunity to come to Wards by October 31 to select one of the chests.

Everyone who is drawn from the registration box wins! The gift certificates are worth their face value in merchandise from Wards (no cash value) through December 15. The value of the largest gift certificate will be donated to a local charity if the chest with that certificate is not chosen. No purchase is necessary.



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