

newsline

Mortgage Bias Found

BOSTON -- A study of New York mortgage lenders shows that discrimination in home lending is based on race rather than the location of housing. Robert Shafer of the Joint Center for Urban Studies here said, "Nationally -- as in New York State, recent discussion about mortgage lending has focused solely on geographic discrimination."

"This concern is somewhat more misdirected since our findings indicate that individuals, more than neighborhoods, are the object of discrimination," he added. "Clearly, we must increase our efforts to ensure equal access of all races to the home buying market."

In an 18-month study, Shafer looked at the relationship between mortgage lending practices, location of houses and individual characteristics in five metropolitan areas: Albany, Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse.

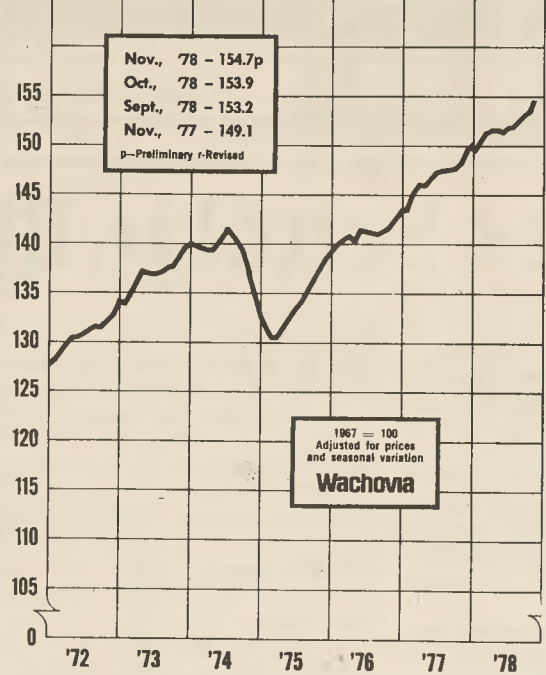
He found that in all the areas except Albany, black applicants have twice as great a chance of being turned down for a mortgage as white applicants with similar socio-economic, property and neighborhood characteristics.

To stop discrimination, Shafer suggested; the development of credit scoring systems which would insure similar treatment for similarly situated individuals; the use of information on the mortgage applications to detect unlawful discrimination; and, the establishment of lending targets for financial institutions found guilty of discrimination.

The Joint Center is a project of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard university.

Business Activity Increases

North Carolina Business Index



The level of business activity in North Carolina moved upward during November for the fourth consecutive month, according to the Wachovia Business Index. The Index registered 154.7 for the month, a gain of 0.5 percent above the October level.

The rise in the Index resulted from increases in non-farm employment, manufacturing manhours and average hourly earnings. Non-farm employment was up modestly, reflecting gains in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors. Government employment was unchanged from the previous month, but employment totals were higher in services, trade and construction as well as in most manufacturing industries.

Manufacturing manhours rose 0.8 percent as a result of a longer workweek and increased employment.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in November compared to 3.7 percent in October. The national rate for November was 5.8 percent, unchanged from the October level. The unadjusted employment rate for North Carolina was 3.7 percent in November. Through the first 11 months of 1978 unemployment in North Carolina averaged 1.7 percent below the national average.

Although unit sales of cars and trucks have slowed for the past two months, car sales for the year are up 2.8 percent over the first 11 months of 1977, and truck sales have outpaced last year by 12.4 percent.

Overall, the level of business activity in North Carolina rose 3.1 percent during the first 11 months of 1978. This compares with a 3.8 percent increase during 1977 and 2.6 percent growth of the same period during 1976.

Martin Luther King Stamp Issued

WASHINGTON D.C.-- The U.S. Postal Service has announced that the 1979 commemorative stamp to honor civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be issued January 13 in Atlanta, Ga.

The first day of issue ceremony for the 15-cent stamp honoring Dr. King will take place at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Dr. King (1929-1968) played a major role in the civil rights activities in the 1960's. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his leadership of the nonviolent struggle for racial equality in the United States.

The Postal Service said that issuance of the King stamp on Saturday, January 13, will make it available at post offices nationwide on Jan. 15, the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's birth.

The stamp honoring Dr. King is the second in the Black Heritage USA series that recognizes the contributions of black Americans to the growth and development of the United States. The series began with the issuance of the Harriet Tubman commemorative stamp on Feb. 1, 1978.

The stamp was designed by Jerry Pinkney of Croton-on-Hudson, New York, a well known illustrator of children's books who also designed the Harriet Tubman stamp.

In harmony with the design concept of the Tubman stamp, Pinkney's strong portrait of Dr. King in clerical attire dominates the vignette.

Civil rights marchers bearing placards appear in the lower foreground above a single line of white type reading, "Black Heritage USA 15-." Across the top of the design, in one line of black type, appear, "Martin Luther King, Jr."

Working Women Meet

RALEIGH-- North Carolina working women employed in clerical, sales, service and factory jobs will have the opportunity to speak for themselves and "tell it like it is" at a conference in Greensboro on Saturday, Feb. 3.

"Make Work Work for Women", is the theme of the one-day program, sponsored by the N.C. Department of Labor and the N.C. Council on the Status of Women. The meeting will be held on the campus of N.C. A&T State University, with the morning session in Merrick Hall and the afternoon session in the Student Union.

The conference is planned for the approximately 800,000 North Carolina women workers in occupations such as machine operators, retail clerks, secretaries and waitresses, Commission Brooks said.

Stickers To Go On Sale

RALEIGH-- The Division of Motor Vehicles of the North Carolina Department of Transportation reminds motorists that validation stickers and plates for 1979 go on sale throughout the state on January 2.

Renewal cards necessary for obtaining a 1979 sticker or plate were mailed December 18 and should be received by December 29. Anyone not receiving a renewal card should notify the Division of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh by mail at 1100 New Bern Avenue or by telephone at (919) 733-3025.

Elbert L. Peters, Jr., Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, said, "It will take from ten days to two weeks to obtain a card and new plates or stickers must be displayed by midnight, February 15."

Newcomers to North Carolina or those buying a car for the first time should make application for a license plate at the nearest local agency.

With the exception of some special classifications, 1979 automobile licenses will be renewed with a validation sticker to be affixed to the upper right-hand corner of the current plate, over the 1978 sticker.

An annual license plate

will continue to be issued for all other classifications, including trucks.

Any newly acquired vehicle will be issued a plate and sticker unless a plate is to be transferred.

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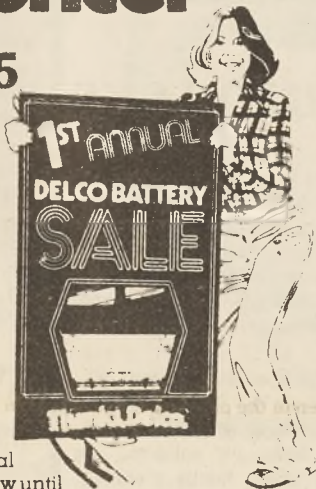
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