

Kelly Alexander Sr. Has Led Fight

To Eliminate Discrimination, Segregation

by Susan Ellsworth
Post Staff Writer

Kelly Miller Alexander, Sr., born, raised and educated in Charlotte, North Carolina, has fought for the elimination of discrimination and segregation.

As president of the state branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Kelly Alexander, Sr. has worked toward improving the quality of life for blacks.

He joined the NAACP in 1939 because he was "disenchanted with desegregation." The

NAACP was the organization he used to lead his fight

against racial discrimination.

In 1940, Kelly Alexander Sr. waged a successful campaign to reactivate the dormant Charlotte branch of the NAACP, and served as its Secretary.

Kelly Alexander was elected president of North Carolina NAACP in 1948, and has held

that position for 30 years. He was elected to the National NAACP Board of Directors in 1950 and is now serving his 28th year as an active member. He is Vice-Chairman of the National Board of Directors.

During his years of NAACP

leadership, Kelly Alexander Sr. spearheaded attacks against segregation. Effective programs were developed to desegregate public schools, hospitals and public recreation facilities.

Kelly Alexander Sr. is involved in many community activities, such as the Board of Charlotte Health and Hospital Council and he is chairman of the Charlotte Council for Equal Business Opportunities.

He is a graduate of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and is the president of Alexander Funeral Homes, Inc. and the president of Alexander Mutual

Burial Association.

Kelly Alexander is a Baptist and attends First Baptist Church; the Rev. J.M. Hurphrey is the pastor. He is married to Margaret Alexander and has two sons, Kelly Alexander, Jr. and Alfred Alexander. Both sons are active in the NAACP.

Check the ads in the Charlotte Post each week



Dr. W. Montague Cobb
..NAACP President

Our New Day Begun

Reverse Job Bias Issue-Continued

By Benjamin L. Hooks
Special To The Post

The dust from Allan Bakke's successful fight to gain admission to the University of California's Davis Medical School has hardly settled, yet a potentially more bruising battle is shaping up.

The U.S. Supreme Court, which began its new term this month, will be asked to consider whether to accept an appeal by the Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp. plant in Gramercy, La., against lower court decisions which found its affirmative action programs illegal. Brian Weber, a 31-year-old lab analyst, has claimed that Kaiser's program was reverse discrimination because he was rejected and denied an opportunity in April, 1974, to train for a skilled-crafts job that would have doubled his pay.

Mr. Weber's reverse discrimination charge has been upheld by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Federal district court in New Orleans, which both held that Kaiser's program was illegal.

In a striking move, U.S. Solicitor General Wade McCree filed a brief before the court asking that the case be sent back to the lower court for further proceedings. NAACP General Counsel, Nathaniel R. Jones has also asked the court for permission to file a similar brief.

Like Bakke, the Weber case grew out of the bitter anti-affirmative action climate that began mushrooming toward the end of the 60s. These were products of the white backlash climate that was openly encouraged by the Nixon and Ford Administrations in opposition to efforts to provide opportunities for minorities in education and employment.

It had been recognized last June that the Supreme Court's convoluted ruling on the Bakke case had left open the way for further challenges. Bakke, the NAACP recognized, had decided little. A five-man court majority did order the admission of the white student to the University of California Davis Medical

School. But the paradoxical decision also provided a majority for the affirmative action concept.

The NAACP post-Bakke symposium in Detroit that was held in July to assess Bakke's impact recognized that one of the greatest civil rights challenges that minorities would face in this area in coming months was political.

The Supreme Court had, in effect, upheld the use of goals and timetables where a history of discrimination had been found, but affirmative action opponents still can pass laws in Congress that would destroy these programs. This they have been attempting to do at every opportunity. Consequently, civil rights lawyers have been hard-pressed to beat back one amendment of appropriations bills after another that would have disastrous effects on efforts to end discrimination. Meanwhile, the legal struggle continues.

The maneuver to have the Supreme Court remand the Weber case back to the lower bodies is crucial. The Carter Administration, the NAACP and other civil rights supporters feel that unless this opportunity to demonstrate that Kaiser had practiced racial discrimination in the past is provided, they could certainly lose the crucial battle, based on the court's reasoning in Bakke.

Big corporations with millions of dollars tied up in affirmative action programs and civil rights cases are therefore, carefully watching these developments, recognizing that the stakes are even greater than in Bakke.



Ben Hook
..NAACP Director



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