



Human Relations News OF CHICAGO



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Commission Gets 2,479 Complaints During '74

In many respects, 1974 was one of the most eventful and productive years in the history of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. It was a year which saw the Commission receive a record number of complaints and score several "firsts" in its efforts to assure equality of opportunity in Chicago.

Over-all, the Commission received 2,479 complaints. Some 1,195 of these complaints alleged discrimination because of the race, religion, sex, marital status, national origin or ancestry of the individual in areas including housing, employment, medical care, education and public accommodations.

The remaining 1,284 complaints concerned allegations of police excessive force received from the Chicago Police Department's Internal Affairs Division and the Office of Professional Standards.

Complaints charging discrimination in the sale or rental of housing increased and those against places of public accommodations nearly doubled, as did complaints filed by Latinos.

In 1974, the Commission completed its second full year reviewing complaints alleging excessive force. The 1,284 complaints received represent a substantial increase over 1973 when 990 such cases were received. One result of the Commission's review has been that in 1974 about 7 per cent of the charges of excessive force were sustained by the Internal Affairs Division and the Office of Professional Standards. In another 3 per cent of the cases, other ramifications (rule violations) were sustained.

By the end of the year, the Commission completed a review of 1,020 of the cases and returned them to the Police Department. Two hundred and sixty-four were still under investigation by the Commission staff. Of the 1,020 cases, 86 (8.4 per cent) were returned by the Commission with a recommendation that additional investigation should be made by the Police Department or with the conclusion that the Commission disagreed with police recommended dispositions or findings.

The process of reviewing excessive force

New CCHR Staff



NEW STAFF MEMBERS get briefing from Ms. Margaret Conroy (right) assistant to the director of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. Learning about the work of the Commission are Joseph J. Battaglia and Ms. Nellie Buitron.



Commission Director James E. Burns (center) explains the work of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations to new staff members. Shown are (left to right) Charles Hampton, Kathleen Catella, Janice Moore, Donald Colonna, and Robert Bradford. Another new member of the staff, Patricia Bartley, is not shown.

complaints is an involved one. First, the Commission staff assigned to this program, comprised of six members, a coordinator and a director, reviews each file. An investigator is then assigned to contact witnesses as well as the complainant and the police officers in order to establish the facts. Polygraph tests also may be requested.

The investigator then submits his report to the director before a final determination is reached. A recommendation is then made to one of the three sub-committees comprised of Commissioners which meet weekly.

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Attys. Scalise, Watt Get New Appointments

A veteran member of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations and a hearing examiner for the Commission recently received new appointments.

Attorney Peter Scalise, a member of the Commission since 1952, was appointed a hearing examiner for the Social Security Administration of the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Attorney Garland W. Watt, a Commission hearing examiner for some seven years, has been appointed a Circuit Court judge.

Scalise has been assigned to the office of the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals in Gary, Indiana. Watt was assigned to the bench in Chicago.

In his new position, Attorney Scalise conducts hearings on a claim where a party has been denied supplemental security income. He presides over these hearings and receives testimony of witnesses and relevant documents.

After the hearing, the hearing examiner issues a written decision, which may affirm, reverse, or modify the prior ruling. His decision, may be appealed to an Appeals Council and subsequently to the U.S. District Court.

Attorney Scalise also has been designated as administrative hearing examiner, and is responsible for the entire office which has one other hearing examiner, two hearing assistants and two secretaries. He has the authority to assign, reassign, and detail the clerical staff in the office to other hearing examiners or to other duties.

Attorney Watt, a graduate of the Harvard University Law School, will serve out two years remaining of a six-year term. The two years resulted from the retirement of a Circuit Court judge. Watt will preside over both civil and criminal court cases.

Besides his work with the Commission on Human Relations, Watt has served as hearing examiner for the Illinois Fair Employment Practices Commission and the Chicago Police Board.

Both Scalise and Watt have been active in business, professional and civic organizations.

Scalise is on the board of directors and the general council of the Italo-American National Union, and has served as president of the Federation of Community Committees, and Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans.

The Chicago chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently presented its medal of honor to Scalise.

Prior to his appointment to the Circuit Court, Watt served on the board of directors of the Independence Bank of Chicago. He is a member of the Union League Club of Chicago and the Economic Club of Chicago. Watt was the 1972 recipient of the Richard E. Westbrooks Award from the Cook County Bar Association.

Ely M. Aaron Dies, Led CCHR During '60s

When Ely M. Aaron, former chairman of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations and civic leader and humanitarian, died on March 3,



Aaron

the City of Chicago and its people lost a pioneer in the struggle for human rights. He was 78.

Throughout his adult life, Aaron had worked for equality of opportunity for all persons regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin or ancestry.

As chairman of the Commission on Human Relations and of the Mayor's Committee on New Residents, Aaron made a tremendous contribution to passage of fair housing, fair employment, and new consumer credit laws, and to the efforts of newcomers to the city to adjust to urban living.

Aaron was chairman of the Mayor's Committee on New Residents from the time it was established in 1957 until 1961. He resigned from that position upon being named chairman of the Commission on Human Relations. Aaron had been a member of the Commission since 1948. He was chairman of the Commission during the turbulent 1960's.

Aaron, along with the late Judge Augustine Bowe, who proceeded Aaron as Commission chairman, initiated what is now the Commission on Human Relations' contractor compliance program. Under this program, the Commission reviews the employment and promotion practices of firms doing business with the city. Since then, the federal government, several states and many major cities have adopted a similar program.

It was during his chairmanship that Chicago became the first major city in the United States to have non-white representatives in all of the building trades.

Besides serving as chairman of the Mayor's Committee on New Residents and the Commission on Human Relations, Aaron had been chairman of the Jewish Vocational Service and Employment Center, and vice president and honorary chairman of the Chicago Chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

Aaron was presented the Esther L. Kohn Award of the Immigrant Service League in 1965, and was cited by the American Jewish Committee a year later.

A practicing attorney, Aaron was a member of the law firm of Aaron, Aaron Shimberg and Hess. He was on the Chicago Bar Association Committee on Candidates. He was an officer and director of several corporations.

Born in Chicago, Aaron attended the University of Chicago and received his law degree from Northwestern University.

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'74 Complaints

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The sub-committees can concur with the IAD or OPS findings, recommend further investigation, or disagree as to the facts or the degree of punishment meted out to the police officer. The file is then returned to the Police Department. In many cases, it is difficult to get complainants or witnesses to cooperate with the Commission in its investigation. This often affects the decision the Commission makes in some cases.

In the area of housing, the Commission received 210 complaints charging a violation of the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance. This was the most ever filed in a single year, and brought to 1,733 the number received since the Ordinance was passed in 1963. The number of housing complaints filed by Spanish-surnamed persons was 43 in 1974 as compared to 23 the previous year.

In two cases—one alleging discrimination because of the sex of the applicant and the other because of marital status—the Commission obtained guilty verdicts following public hearings on the charges.

Housing Ordinance

The Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance prohibits discrimination by real estate agents and/or property owners because of the race, religion, sex, marital status, national origin or ancestry of the person seeking the housing. The Ordinance also outlaws panic peddling and the display of "For Sale" and other similar signs in residential areas of the city.

The Commission in 1974 issued 172 warning notices to individuals and real estate agents displaying illegal signs. Forty-one complaints were filed in the Circuit Court for failure to remove the signs after warning notices were received. Several of the real estate agents or individuals were placed under court supervision, while charges against one other was dropped and another was dismissed; 18 were convicted and 13 of the complaints were still pending at the end of the year. One arrest warrant was issued. Fines totaling \$1,350 were levied against those found guilty.

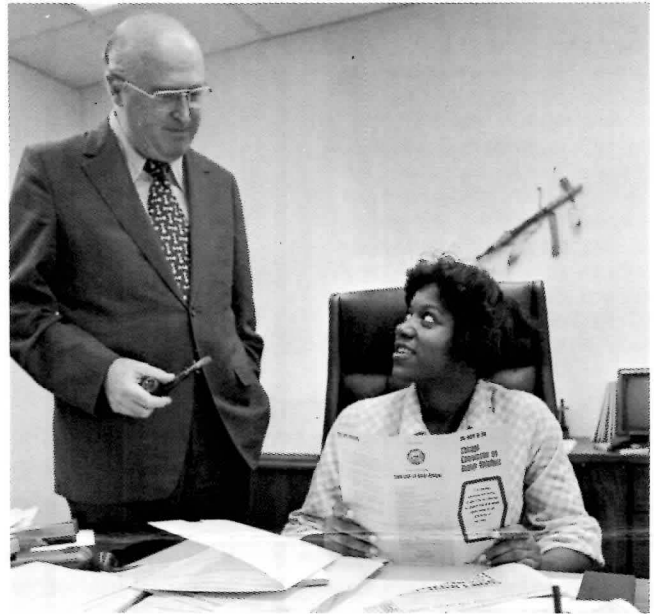
Besides the 210 complaints filed under the housing ordinance, the Commission received 402 housing complaints not covered by the Ordinance. Non-ordinance complaints involve all types of tenant-landlord disagreements.

During 1974, the Commission also investigated 375 complaints covering a variety of other issues. Of this number, 92 dealt with neighborhood and racial tension problems, 88 with unequal treatment in the field of education, 12 with health care facilities, 28 with financial difficulties, and 116 concerning places of public accommodations.

An additional 39 complaints covered such problems as lights and water shut-offs, loss of welfare checks, and other complaints of a miscellaneous nature.

The 116 public accommodation complaints are almost double the 60 complaints received in 1973.

Junior Official



James E. Burns, director of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, gives Margaret Smith, 17, a Marshall High School senior, an idea of some of the paper work which goes across his desk during the business day. Ms. Smith served as Commission director during Junior Officials day, May 5.

This can be attributed to the increasing number of complaints against Near North Side taverns alleged to be discriminating against minorities.

The Commission in 1974 also was instrumental in developing and getting a new experimental school security program implemented in six public high schools. The program calls for community involvement as well as utilization of all available outside resources both before and after security problems arise.

Broker Licenses

A little-known Commission program is its review of applicants for real estate broker licenses in the city. A total of 104 of these reviews were conducted during the year.

In the area of employment, the Commission during the year 1974, investigated 208 complaints alleging discrimination in employment or promotion. Of these complaints, 94 alleged discrimination in being terminated, 38 because they were not hired, 47 for unfair treatment, 14 for layoffs, three for lack of promotion, and 12 for other causes.

The Commission also handled 334 information and counseling calls from persons and businesses seeking information or advice on a variety of issues relating to employment.

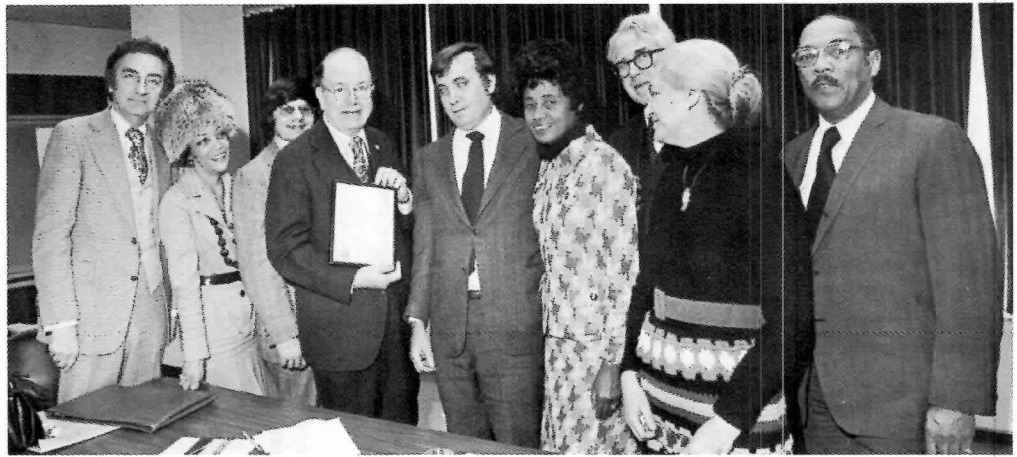
The Commission staff conducted 138 contractor reviews in order to check on their employment practices and to provide information on equal employment opportunity and affirmative action to employers. The visits also served to identify 650 job openings which were referred to the Mayor's Jobs for Viet Nam Veterans' Program and to the Civil Service Commission.

As part of its on-going activities, the Commission mailed questionnaires to 3,903 firms which

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Honor Scannell...

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN
Peter Fitzpatrick presents citation to Raymond Scannell honoring Scannell for his 10-year service to the Commission. Scannell resigned recently as director of the Commission's Fair Employment Services Division. Others in the picture are (left to right) Commissioners Leonard F. Miska, Bernadine C. Washington, Demetri Konstantelos (Fitzpatrick and Scannell), Clara Day, Robert C. McNamara, Barbara Fiske and Theodore A. Jones.



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have provided goods and services to the City. The questionnaires requested information about employment policies and practices regarding blacks, Latins and women.

Businesses which did not cooperate with the Commission's program may be declared ineligible for further City contracts. Some 640 firms were removed from the list of firms eligible to receive City contracts in 1974.

In order to inform people about the work of the Commission and the many services available, the Commission in 1974 produced 450 radio broadcasts, distributed thousands of pamphlets and arranged for numerous speaking engagements by members of the Commission staff.

The 29th annual luncheon, hosted by the Commission, was held in December at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Featured speakers were Mayor Richard J. Daley and Sargent Shriver, former ambassador to France, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Peace Corps, and former vice-presidential candidate. Both speakers were acclaimed by the standing-room only audience which attended. The Commission presented awards to five individuals and one financial institution for outstanding achievement in the field of human relations.

Some 500 girls took part in the seventh year of "Project Girls" a summer program conducted by the Commission for inner-city teenagers. The program funded by Model Cities-Chicago Committee on Urban Opportunity, again provided a combined recreational-educational-cultural type activity at 11 locations designed to give the participants a better understanding of government, educational and cultural opportunities and human relations.

(cont. from page 2) —Aaron

He is survived by his widow, Helen; a daughter, a son, three sisters and one brother.

Commenting on the death of Attorney Aaron, James E. Burns, the Commission director, said:

"The passing of Ely M. Aaron is a loss to the City of Chicago and all of its people. As chairman of the Commission on Human Relations during the turbulent 1960s, Ely gave exceptional leadership to the cause of equality of opportunity for all persons, and much of the progress made during that period can be attributed to his leadership.

"As chairman of the Mayor's Committee on New Residents, he helped thousands of newcomers to the city adjust to urban living. His love and concern for his fellowman will always be remembered, and the city and its people are the benefactors."



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CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS
640 North LaSalle Street • Chicago, Illinois 60610
Telephone: 744-4111

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Mrs. James N. Zartman — WCB pres

James E. Burns, Director

Mrs. Augustine Bowe
1120 N. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Ill. 60611

Address correction requested