

MINUTES OF MEETING
STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
February 28, 1961
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and Mr. Carl Glatt, Executive Secretary of the Kansas Anti-Discrimination Commission was introduced to present the case for the proponents of H.B. 243.

Mrs. Heller was introduced to speak in favor of the measure. She is the Vice-President of the League of Women Voters of Kansas (see attached).

Mr. James Yount, Vice-President of the Kansas State Federation of Labor, spoke as a representative of the labor Unions of Kansas. He stated that it has been the goal of labor unions, nationally and local, to remove discrimination since 1959.

The Rev. Harold Statler of the Kansas Council of Churches, working in the social relations field, stated that this proposal would grant all citizens equal opportunity and that he is in favor of the bill.

Mr. George Bell, Superintendent of County Schools, Wyandotte County, stated that he appears as a private citizen and not representing any group; that he is distressed that discrimination exists in the school system in his county and that he knows of specific instances where negro teachers with proper qualifications have been denied employment.

Dr. C. R. Roquemore, President of the Kansas NAACP, stated that he had traveled over the state interviewing many people of his race regarding employment opportunity; that he found the same old story of lack of opportunity. He stated that it seems ridiculous to encourage their young people to secure an education only to find there is no place to utilize their talent; that they must go to adjoining states or other areas in order to secure employment in line with their training.

Dr. Jack Bauer, Kansas UNESCO and Lawrence League for the Practice of Democracy, stated that he had recently visited with Senator George Brown of Colorado, a negro formerly of Lawrence. That Senator Brown had attended Lawrence schools, KU and had a period of service, and upon return to Lawrence, found there was at least one job in line with his qualifications, but was told that there was no use to go on an interview. He has found acceptance in Colorado. Colorado, Dr. Bauer states, has a similar law that is working and that it can work in Kansas.

Mr. Robert Saft, Supt. of County Schools, Sedgwick County, appeared to discuss the school system and employment practices in his county. He states that no negro teachers have been hired, and in fact, he had sent some on interviews and they were not hired; that he never offers encouragement to negro teachers because he knows of no instance where they have been hired. He states he feels that qualifications and not race should be the criteria.

Rep. Charles Arthur appeared as the past chairman of the State Affairs Committee of the Legislative Council. He advised that 2 years ago this proposition was presented to the Legislature and no action was taken except to refer the matter for further study. This report can be found on

page 6814 of the annual report of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Marvin Larson, Director, State Department of Social Welfare, appeared on behalf of himself, but stated that this has some relation to his department. He states that when minority groups are not given opportunity for employment the group falls upon the shoulders of the taxpayer and are taken care of through the Welfare program.

Dr. Harry Levinson, Kansas Advisory Committee to the US Civil Rights Commission told of a survey made by his group, at four widely separated locations, comprised of a cross-section of people. He learned that there were practices of discrimination; that he feels 243 will be the means of helping the situation; that many employers would be willing to hire negroes but fear reprisal.

Mr. Howard Brewer, Commissioner for the Anti-Discrimination Commission states that he has served in this capacity since 1953; that they have learned of practices of discrimination and more is being learned all the time; that 243 with its enforcement power should be passed.

Mr. Glatt made a summary of all remarks and discussed the bill section by section, answering questions of the Committee.

Meeting was adjourned.