

JOINT MEETING FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
and STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
February 17, 1967

Present were: Chairman Taylor and Messrs: Rogers, Kessinger, McCray, Jelinek, Doyen, Ford, Buchele, Bunten, Brown, Lindahl and Turner.

Mrs. Shechter of the Kansas Civil Rights Advisory Council was spokesman for an overflow crowd. She stated that Rev. Jack Bremer, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, Mr. Emmett Blaes, an attorney from Wichita, Mr. Gerald Quiat the Colorado Civil Rights Commissioner, Mr. Watson the Chairman of the Kansas Civil Rights Commission, and Mr. John Hasselblad of Denver, would be the major speakers.

Mr. Hasselblad stated that the strong fair housing bill in Colorado had resulted in a boom in the real estate industry in Colorado; that it is their contention that this has resulted in no block busting, no controversy and no riots.

Mr. Bremer of the Advisory Council stated that their position is a commitment to a strong fair housing law and to the improvement of human relations; that they endorse Senate Bill 6 but that they consider it a compromise measure but that they will stand with the legislative council; however if attempts are made to water it down, he feels that they will not support it. On the other hand, he made suggestions that he would like to see which would give broader coverage to the bill.

Mr. Emmett Blaes stated that he is not opposed to the bill but if it was considered desirable to make changes, he was prepared to present suggestions to strengthen it; however, he was willing to go along with it as drafted by the Legislative Council. He mentioned specifically subpoena powers, complaints, judicial review and jury review.

Mr. Gerald Quiat, the Commissioner of Colorado, stated that the 1959 law adopted in Colorado was substantially like SB 6; that in 1965 the stronger law was passed and that there has been no adverse effect. He states the only test on the purchase of a house in Colorado as the economic test and that they have had no riots or other difficulties. He stated that there are over 50,000 negroes in Denver and the fears so often voiced over legislation of this type have been repudiated by Colorado's experience.

Senator Casado inquired if the Legislative Council had invited Mr. Blase to offer his suggestions and Chairman Sebelius stated that they had the benefit of his SB 166.

Senator Gaar inquired if this bill is passed if the Council will immediately start to work with the idea that this is a foot in the door and start agitating for a stronger bill. Mr. Bremer replied that they were willing to endorse this bill. Senator Garr pressed for a positive answer and learned that indeed such pressure would be applied.

Mr. Robert Watson, Chairman of the Kansas Civil Rights Commission, Dr. Rocquemoire of Wellington representing NAACP and Mr. Hugh Jackson of the Urban League of Wichita, reiterated much of what had been said, and went on record as favoring this bill.

The meeting was adjourned.

MARGARET GENTRY, Secretary