

Approved: 5-3-97  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Lana Oleen at 11:10 a.m. on March 19, 1997 in Room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Midge Donohue, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Sherman J. Jones  
Senator U. L. "Rip" Gooch  
Mr. Arthur Solis, American GI Forum, Olathe  
Mr. Clyde Howard, Kansas State University, Manhattan  
Mr. C. E. "Sonny" Scroggins, Bias Busters of Kansas, Topeka  
Mr. Troy Scroggins, Topeka  
Mr. Scott A. Stone, Executive Director and Chief Counsel, Kansas  
Association of Public Employees (KAPE), Topeka  
Representative Rocky Nichols  
Former State Senator Gene Anderson, Wichita  
Mr. Wayne Franklin, Secretary, Department of Human Resources

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Oleen announced that there were no opponents to the bill being heard by the committee today concerning establishment of an advisory commission on African American affairs. She recognized Secretary Wayne Franklin and Mr. Roger Aeschleman of the Department of Human Resources and told the committee they were present to respond to any questions the committee had in regard to the proposed legislation.

Senator Oleen called attention to a letter from the Simon DeBartolo Group, which was distributed to committee members, expressing concern about the carrying of concealed weapons in shopping center malls (Attachment #1).

Senator Oleen called attention also to Resolution No. 1842 from the City of Garden City expressing opposition to **SB 179** and **SB 219**, measures pertaining to English as the official language (Attachment #2). Copies were made available to committee members, and the resolution will be entered into the official record.

The hearings were opened on:

**HB 2444: An act establishing the advisory commission on African-American affairs; composition thereof; election of officers; powers and duties.**

Senator Sherman Jones spoke in support of **HB 2444** (Attachment #3). He indicated he had spoken before in support of this effort and was not certain why an earlier bill had been rejected. He dismissed previous arguments given by opponents and said he did not think they justified a negative decision by the legislature on the issue. Senator Jones pointed out that African-American people in Kansas make up the largest ethnic group in the state and, if considered a minority group, they are the largest minority group, (excluding women), in the state. He told the committee that communication is vital in all segments of society, and we must be able to understand the reasons this ethnic, minority group is reaching forth to allow itself to better fit into a society that is so greatly influenced and affected by state government. Senator Jones noted the discomfort registered when past injustices are discussed, and said a lot of that discomfort could be attributed to a lack of communication. He stated what better way to communicate than by a select group of men and women serving

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, Room 254-E- of the Capitol, at 11:00 a.m. on March 19, 1997.

as liaison between government and the community in maintaining a line of communication, as well as supporting state government. He recalled days past when it was common in the black neighborhood to contact a certain preacher who used his congregation to carry out the wishes of the politicians "down town". Senator Jones said that passage of this legislation will change such methods and provide better communication, better understanding and better government.

Senator U. L. "Rip" Gooch made a brief statement in support of **HB 2444**. He echoed Senator Jones comments about the method of communication years ago in the black community. Senator Gooch said a much better way to communicate now is by the formation of an advisory commission. He noted that this concept had been before both houses of the legislature for the past ten years and did not get to the Senate floor last session. He urged the committee to make the necessary effort to see that this does not happen this year. Senator Gooch thanked the chairman for readily agreeing to hear the bill in committee and for presenting the opportunity to pass if favorably out of committee.

Senator Oleen noted that three of the sponsors of the bill were scheduled to testify in support of the measure but the House was currently in session, and she would try to accommodate their testimony, time permitting.

Mr. Arthur W. Solis, American GI Forum, Olathe, a proponent of the bill, spoke briefly and asked that his written testimony (Attachment #4) be entered into the record to afford others the opportunity to speak. He thanked the committee for hearing the bill, saying that the establishment of the commission is important to all Kansans, not just the African-American community. Mr Solis said he had an opportunity to review the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on **HB 2444** and felt that the three full-time positions proposed in the bill would not be sufficient to accomplish what will be required of the advisory commission; instead, he urged the committee to consider adding another full time position to the commission.

Mr. Clyde Howard, Kansas State University, Manhattan, appeared in support of **HB 2444** (Attachment #5). He said the bill is long overdue; that it is far past time to debate the issue of whether the advisory commission is necessary. He pointed out that it is important for all persons in the community to feel they have a voice in their government, and **HB 2444** provides a unique opportunity for African-Americans at local levels to be heard. Mr. Howard told the committee this is the first real opportunity for African-Americans to have a voice in what affects them and how their tax dollars are spent. He cited past years when the proposal failed and said passage of the bill would be a move toward a better Kansas.

Mr. C. E. "Sonny" Scroggins, Bias Busters of Kansas, Topeka, spoke in support of **HB 2444** (Attachment #6). Mr. Scroggins recalled previous attempts to establish an advisory commission on African-American affairs, noting that he had been lobbying the issue for the past sixteen years. He said the need exists and he was confident the bill will be favorably recommended to the full Senate.

Mr. Troy G. Scroggins, Topeka, a proponent of **HB 2444**, said he has made his position known for a number of years. He reiterated what other supporters of the measure expressed and said there is a great need for an agency of state government to act as a conduit for the mutual exchange of communication on critical issues that affect relationships between the minority African American community and the majority establishment of Kansas (Attachment #7). Mr. Scroggins told the committee that the ultimate goal of African-Americans in Kansas is to achieve parity and equality of opportunities within the social, political and economic processes afforded all Kansans. He urged favorable consideration of the bill.

Mr. Scott A. Stone, Executive Director and Chief Counsel, Kansas Association of Public Employees (KAPE) appeared in support of **HB 2444** (Attachment #8). He told the committee that KAPE supports the plight of minorities in the state. He reminded the committee that one of the two largest minority groups in Kansas, Hispanics, already has an advisory commission. Mr. Stone noted also that the legislature overwhelmingly rejected the proposed abolishment of that commission and stated that, this year, it should recognize the largest minority group in the state with the creation of its own commission to focus on specific problems experienced by the African-American community. He said the argument that every minority group will want an advisory commission, if **HB 2444** is passed, should be rejected because the two largest minority groups should have a voice. Mr. Stone urged committee members to favorably recommend the measure and actively support its passage on the Senate floor.

Representative Rocky Nichols, one of the sponsors of the bill, spoke in support of the measure. He recalled his involvement with this issue the past several years and said it is something that needs to be addressed by the legislature this session. Representative Nichols echoed the remarks of other conferees that it makes sense to establish an advisory commission for the largest minority group in the state. He said the time is right to pass the bill into law.

Additional written testimony in support of **HB 2444** to be entered into the record was submitted by Mr. Elias

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, Room 254-E- of the Capitol, at 11:00 a.m. on March 19, 1997.

L. Garcia, Chairman of the Kansas Democratic Hispanic Caucus (Attachment #9)

Senator Oleen called attention to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on **HB 2444** (Attachment #10), noting that it had not been available earlier.

Staff gave a brief overview of the provisions of **HB 2444**, explaining that the bill would create a commission that would be advisory to the Secretary of Human Resources; that it would be a seven-member body, with members serving three-year terms. Discussion followed on the composition and charges of the commission.

Gene Anderson, a former state senator from Wichita, was recognized by Senator Oleen and invited to address the committee. He indicated he had no prepared remarks but appreciated the opportunity to show his support for an issue that had been around for some time. Senator Anderson stated that it was long overdue to take progressive steps to deal with some of the unique problems facing African Americans, not only in this state but around the country. He noted the history of Kansas in taking the lead in the area of what is right and what is good, and he said the passage of this legislation would speak clearly to that. He stated that, although we would like to think there is no need for such an agency in this day and age, reality says there is. Senator Anderson said there needs to be a check and balance to make certain everyone is playing by the rules. He pointed out that this legislation would present an opportunity to identify some of the unique problems African Americans face and work to solve those problems for the benefit not only of the African-American community but the community as a whole. Further, he pointed out this legislation would serve as a mechanism to utilize all talents from diverse personalities which have made Kansas a stronger state. He called on the committee to make this investment by favorably reporting the bill to the full Senate.

The chairman recognized Secretary Wayne Franklin of the Department of Human Resources. Mr. Franklin explained that the Kansas Advisory Commission on Hispanic Affairs is part of the Department of Human Resources at the present time and has three full-time positions, with addition of a fourth being considered. He stated that, if this legislation passes, he would do all in his power to make the African-American Advisory Commission a successful unit, pointing out that the state is stronger when it can help its weakest links. He added that, if an African-American Advisory Commission is created, his department could accommodate its staff with existing office space.

Staff distributed copies of information developed by Legislative Research on the Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs (Attachment #11).

Senator Gooch related how frustrating it had been for him over the years in trying to get legislation passed to create an Advisory Commission on African-American Affairs, and he took special notice of the support he received from the chairman during that time.

Senator Gooch moved that **HB 2444** be reported favorably to the full Senate. Senator Biggs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

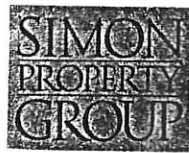
The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 1997.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 1997.

SENATE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
GUEST LIST

DATE: March 19, 1997

NAME	REPRESENTING
C.E. "Sonny" Schroggins	Beas Bestow of Kansas & KAPE
Brad Hall	
Jennifer Fortney	
Glenn O. Thompson	Stand Up For U.S.
Dave Schneider	Kansans For Life At Its Best
Scott A. Stone	KAPE
Arthur Solis	AGIF-KC
Troy G. Schroggins	BDCK
Wally Brown / Henderson	Citizen
Gene Anderson	McAfee Manufacturing
Megan Sallmon	Wichita Kz A. Philip Randolph Inst.
Ernie Yank	KS Demo Hispanic Caucus
Beverly Thompson	Black Republican Council
Secretary Wayne L. Franklin	Ks. Dept. Human Resources
Roger Aeschliman	KDHR
Mordean Taylor-Acker	K-State
Kim Jenkins	
Curtis E. Bazemore	KS. Black Republican Council
Al Maxwell	



March 17, 1997

Senator Lana Oleen  
Chair of Federal and State Affairs Committee  
Room 136 North  
State Capitol Building  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Oleen:

On behalf of Simon DeBartolo Group, I would like to address concerns we have about the proposed House Bill which may allow citizens to carry concealed guns on our properties.

Simon DeBartolo Group owns and manages several shopping centers in Kansas. They include West Ridge Mall in Topeka, Towne East Square, Towne West Square, and Wichita Mall in Wichita, plus Hutchinson Mall in Hutchinson. Our malls generate customer traffic of over 30 million people each year. We are one of the few entities in the state that congregate such a large number of people.

Our tenants depend upon us to generate this customer traffic to increase their sales. At the same time, our tenants and customers expect the landlord to provide a safe and secure atmosphere for their customers to shop and relax. All of our centers are staffed with highly trained security officers to provide a safe and secure shopping environment.

Our concern with the passage of a concealed carry bill is that some of our customers would be licensed approved to carry a concealed weapon in our shopping centers. We feel this poses an undue risk to our shopping customers.

Therefore, we ask that the Bill be amended to "exclude" enclosed shopping centers from approved locations for licensed gun carriers to carry concealed weapons on those properties. We would also request that signs not be required to be posted stating the "exclusion" of guns on property if excluded status is granted. We feel this would be in the best interest of our tenants and customers.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 317-263-7906. I or a representative from Simon DeBartolo Group would be available to address any committee on the above subject.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Gorman  
Regional Vice President

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm.  
Date: 3-19-97  
Attachment: #1

*KANSAS  
DEMOCRATIC  
HISPANIC CAUCUS*

March 12, 1997

Senator Lana Oleen, Chr.  
Federal and State Affairs Committee  
State Capitol Bldg.  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: SB 179 and 219

Honorable Senator Oleen:

We respectfully request that this resolution passed by the City of Garden City, March 11, 1997, be submitted for the record in opposition to the above mentioned bills. Be it further noted that this resolution, along with the previously submitted petitions opposing these bills, rebuts the "overstatements" by the freshman Senator from Fowler, Senator Huelscamp, with respect to his comments which alluded to support of these bills by the vast majority of southwest Kansas. This is obviously not the case.

We would appreciate you sharing this with fellow committee members as we continue not to see any tangible evidence, facts or data from proponents of these bills which would lead any reasonable person to conclude that there is in fact a need for this type of legislation.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,



Elias L. Garcia, Chr.  
Democratic Hispanic Caucus

*P.O. BOX 1971, TOPEKA, KANSAS 66601-1971*

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm.  
Date: *3-19-97*  
Attachment: # *2*

RESOLUTION NO. 1842

*for  
Committee  
Review*

WHEREAS, the Kansas Legislature has introduced Senate bills 179 and 219 which designate English as the official language of the State of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, English is the primary language of the United States, the State of Kansas, and the City of Garden City, and all members of our society recognize the importance of English to the national life and individual accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, this City, State, and Nation was founded on a commitment to democratic principals, and not on racial, ethnic, or religious homogeneity, and has drawn strength from a diversity of language and cultures and from a respect for individual liberties, and

WHEREAS, multilingualism, or the ability to speak languages in addition to English, is a tremendous resource to the City of Garden City, State of Kansas, and the United States, because such ability enhances American competitiveness in global markets by improved communication and cross-cultural understanding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Garden City states its opposition to "English-only" and any bill which seeks to establish English as the official language of Kansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Garden City encourages all residents of this City, State and Nation to become proficient in English by expanding educational opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Garden City supports encouraging all residents of this city to learn and maintain skills in a language other than English.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Kansas, and to the members of the 1997 Kansas Legislature.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Garden City, Finney County, Kansas on the 11th day of March, 1997.

*Tim Cruz*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TIM CRUZ, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Darleen Carroll*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DARLEEN CARROLL,  
Acting for City Clerk

SHERMAN J. JONES  
SENATOR, 4TH DISTRICT

3736 WEAVER DRIVE  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66104  
(913) 342-5728



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER  
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504  
(913) 296-7376

March 13, 1997

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS  
RANKING MINORITY  
TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES  
PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE  
EDUCATION  
JOINT COMMITTEES  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE  
CHAIRMAN LEGIS. BLACK CAUCUS

**HB 2444**

**Testimony  
by**

**- SENATOR SHERMAN JONES -**

Madam Chairman, and members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee I appreciate, very much the opportunity to officially address the committee in support of this legislation.

I have spoken before in support of this effort and I've never been really sure why this bill was rejected. The reasons I've heard have been numerous and I'll attempt to name a few: adding another bureaucracy, the state can't afford to fund it from another department's budget, It would take funds from the existing Hispanic Affairs Commission, it would cause every ethnic or minority group to come forward requesting their group be given similar status. Frankly, I don't think any of the above is true or justifies a negative decision by our legislature against this proposed commission.

If we consider the African-American people in this state as an ethnic group, then it is the largest ethnic group in the state; If we consider the African-American people as a minority group, then we are the largest minority group (not including women) in the state. If we feel that we are in the communication age and communication is vital in all segments of our society, then we must be able to understand the reasons this ethnic-minority group of people is reaching forth to allow itself to better fit in a society that is so greatly influenced and effected by state government here in Kansas.

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm.  
Date: 3-19-97  
Attachment: # 3



The incidents and suffering that occurred to our people in the history of this state and this nation is hardly the fault of any of you or me, but you and I both register discomfort when we talk about the past. A lot of this discomfort could be due to a lack of communication from all of us. What better way to seek out the state's most qualified African-Americans by the governor as well as the legislature to fill important slots on boards, commission and taskforces than to have a select group of men and women especially selected from across the state by elected officials to be a liaison between government and community in maintaining a line of communication - as well as supporting state government in helping to develop a better state for all of us.

In the old days it was common place in the black neighborhood that when the politicians "down town", as well as in Topeka, wanted support or information, usually the method was to contact a certain preacher who used his congregation to carry out the wishes of "downtown". So if you wanted a job, an appointment, recognition or help you had best belong to that particular church. I think a lot of this still goes on. But it was a terrible way to communicate even if it was all we had. The passage of this legislature will change such methods and provide us better communication, better understanding and better government.

I support the bill and ask for your support as well.

Thank you



215 North Normandy  
Olathe Kansas 66061  
(913) 782-2466

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS**

BY

**ARTHUR W. SOLIS**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1997

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2444**

Senator Lana Oleen and Members of the Senate Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of House Bill No. 2444, "AN ACT establishing the advisory commission on African-American affairs." I commend you on convening this hearing on an issue which is of critical importance for all citizens of Kansas.

I am the Immediate Past State Commander of the **AMERICAN GI FORUM OF KANSAS**. The American GI Forum of Kansas, the oldest and largest membership-based Hispanic organization in Kansas, is a long-time advocate for the equality of opportunity of all persons, regardless of race, color, gender, ethnicity and national origin. Therefore, in recognition of the unique and diverse interests and needs of the African-American community of Kansas, at its 1996 Annual State Conference the American GI Forum of Kansas adopted a resolution which reiterated its support for a separate statutory advisory committee for African-Americans.

Parenthetically, it should be noted that during the 1991 Legislative Session the American GI Forum testified before the House and Senate Committees on Governmental Organization in favor of 1991 HB 2283, which would have established an advisory committee on African-American affairs.

I respectfully urge the Committee to favorably recommend HB 2444. Ethnic and racial minorities in Kansas have made, and continue to make, significant and constructive contributions to our State. Statutory advisory committees are an investment in the future of our State.

This concludes my testimony.

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm.  
Date: 3-19-97  
Attachment: #4

Testimony in Support of Passage of HB 2444  
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee  
March 19, 1997  
Clyde Howard

Senator Oleen and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you in support of passage of House Bill 2444. House Bill 2444 presents a rare opportunity to achieve more efficiency in government and to involve more African Americans in setting public policy and in evaluating the effectiveness of state-funded programs. I strongly urge you to unanimously pass HB 2444 out of committee and send it to the full Senate with your firm and unequivocal support. I also ask that you vote in the Senate for passage of HB 2444 with a sufficient appropriation to the Department of Human Resources to ensure the Department has financial and human resources to carry out the important work outlined in HB 2444.

HB 2444 will compliment other efforts to make programs more efficient because it provides for cooperative efforts among state agencies and departments, elected officials and private associations and organizations. It offers the opportunity for grass roots input into the design and implementation of programs, and clear executive oversight by the Secretary of Human Resources. HB 2444 is not about increasing the size and cost of state government, it is about reaffirming the obligation of the government to reach out to the people and to form a partnership with people.

HB 2444 provides a unique opportunity for African-Americans at local levels to be heard. An unwavering quest for self-determination and an enthusiastic desire for equity have guided African-Americans involvement in the development of public policy through the Exoduster Movement, the Jim Crow Era and the Civil Rights Movement. HB 2444 brings African-Americans and the Kansas political process to a historic intersection: the intersection of lip-service and commitment. Which road shall it take? You must make that decision!

Commitment means passing and enacting HB 2444 and sending a clear message that African-Americans should have a stronger voice in the development and implementation of public policies that affect them and spend their tax dollars.

Lip-service means more platitudes, a continuation of the status quo. It means another study, another report. It means HB 2444 dies in committee or is rejected by a wide margin on the floor.

I do not believe African-Americans will find any solace in knowing that HB 2444 got farther in the legislative process than a similar bill 5, 10 or 20 years ago. I do believe African-Americans will feel government is more responsive to their needs if HB 2444 passes and is enacted.

I strongly urge you to vote for passage of HB 2444. Thank you.



# Bias Busters of Kansas

*invites all people of good will to appear at the State Capitol on March 19, 1997 at 11am in Room 254 east to support the establishment of Senate Bill #2444, which if passed, will form an*

## **Advisory Commission on African-American Affairs.**

**This is the 16th year of the effort by Bias Busters of Kansas to establish this committee.**

Human Pride, Worldwide  
Hey Ho, Hate's Gotta Go!



*For all people, youth and adult, of all faiths,  
in Topeka and around the World.*

Some of the Accomplishments of the Kansas  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Committee are:

- Led the Efforts for the King Holiday in Kansas
- Founding Member of the Governor's Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
- Established the first Community - Wide Interdenominational Celebration
- Led the efforts for the state monument in Dr. King's honor, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway (I-470)
- Established a Memorial Room at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas
- Lobbied for recognition of Dr. King in U.S.D. 501 School District
- MLK, Michelle Tate, and Amy Biehl Memorial Tree established on the south side of the Kansas State Capitol Building
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Round-up and City Wide Celebration to kick off National Black History Month on January 31
- Kansas Inclusion Day (as proclaimed by Governor Bill Graves) 04-04-95
- Affirmative Action Day (as proclaimed by Governor Bill Graves) 02-21-94

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm.  
Date: 3-19-97  
Attachment: # 6

BIAS BUSTERS OF KANSAS  
3730 TRUMAN  
TOPEKA, KS. 66609  
(913) 267-5381

MARCH 10, 1994

MR. AL RAMIREZ, CHAIR  
KANSAS STATE SENATOR  
SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS  
ROOM 128 SOUTH  
KANSAS STATEHOUSE  
TOPEKA, KS. 66612

DEAR SENATOR RAMIREZ:

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IS IN A RAPID STATE OF EMERGENCY. THE PROBLEM OF RACISM IN OUR SOCIETY, AND THE ALTERNATE WAY OF LIFE THAT IS ROOTED IN CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, TO TURN IT AROUND IS GOING TO TAKE A MASSIVE EFFORT! IF THERE IS NO NEED FOR A AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMITTEE/COMMISSION IN KANSAS, WHY THEN IS THERE ONE FOR HISPANIC-AMERICANS? WHY SHOULD OUR PROBLEMS BE GIVEN ANY LESS CONCERN THAT THOSE OF THE HISPANIC OF THE STATE OF KANSAS.

I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT HOUSE BILL 2543 HAS PASSED THE HOUSE, IT IS UNIMAGINABLE THAT YOUR COMMITTEE WOULD SHIRK FOR AN INSTANCE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE FOR SUCH AN OFFICIAL FORUM, WHEN IT COULD BEGIN TO CREATE PROBLEM-SOLVING MECHANISM NOW SOLELY NEEDED. CONSIDER THE INTENSIFIED RACISM, DISINTERGRATION OF NORMS IN BLACK FAMILIES, THE SLOW AND DANGEROUS DESENT OF BLACK CITIZENS INTO ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION AND MEMBERSHIP IN A PERMANENT UNDERCLASS, DELIBERATE REDLINING OF BLACKS AND BLACK NEIGHBORHOODS BY BANKS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES AND EVEN THE FAILURE OF CERTAIN BLACK CHURCH LEADERS TO COUNTER THE GRADUAL DESCENT OF MANY BLACKS INTO IMMORALITY AND AMORALITY. IT CANNOT BE REASONABLY ARGUED THAT THE RELATIVELY SMALL COST OF THE PROPOSED COMMITTEE/COMMISSION COMPARES TO THE HUMAN AND DOLLAR COST OF NOT ADDRESSING PROBLEMS OF THE DISENFRANCHISED.

LET'S EXPLORE ALL OF OUR OPTIONS, "IN SO DOING," IT HAS BEEN MY HOPE SINCE 1981, THAT THE STATE'S BODY POLITIC WOULD DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FATE OF OTHER PEOPLE-OF-COLOR, NOT JUST HISPANIC-AMERICANS, WHOSE ACCESSION TO FULL ENJOYMENT OF THOSE INALIENABLE HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER REMAINS A LANGSTON HUGHESEAN DREAM DEFERRED IN THE STATE OF KANSAS. I DO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A COMMITTEE/COMMISSION CAN GUARANTEE A SUCCESS THAT CAN BE PARTICULARLY EDIFYING FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO SO VERY MUCH NEED TO ROLE-MODEL IDENTIFY WITH SUCCESSFUL VENTURES UNDER AFRICAN-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP.

ACCORDINGLY, AS I HAVE ALREADY STATED IN PREVIOUS YEARS TO THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS THAT TRADITIONALLY HAVE BEEN INADEQUATELY ADDRESSED BY OUR STATE'S BODY POLITIC, CONSIGNING OUR STATE'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES TO A

PAGE OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS HISTORICALLY FALLEN FAR SHORT OF THE MAJORITY COMMUNITY AND EVEN ONE OF OUR STATE'S OTHER COMMUNITIES-OF-COLOR.

WHY ARE AFRICAN-AMERICANS ALWAYS THE ONES TO COMPROMISE????? THE STATE OF KANSAS CAN DO MORE THAN PASS A DEATH PENALTY, AND BUILD MORE JAILS!!!! I/WE ARE DESPARATE TO THIS END, PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT BIAS BUSTERS OF KANSAS IS PLANNING A RALLY AND DEMONSTRATION AGAINST YOUR COMMITTEE AND THE LEADERSHIP. I/WE HAVE BEEN PATIENT OVER THE YEARS WAITING ON THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF KANSAS TO SIEZE THE MOMENT TO ASSIST THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN ITS DESIRE TO ADDRESS ITS OWN NEEDS AND CONCERNS THROUGH THE ENABLING ACT OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE/COMMISSION.

OUR RALLY AND DEMONSTRATION IS TENATIVELY SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 4, 1994, AT THE MLK TREE LOCATED AT THE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO THE STATEHOUSE.

WITH WARM AND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOU, I AM

  
C.E. "SONNY" SCROGGINS, CHAIR

CC KANSAS SENATOR BOGINA  
KANSAS SENATOR HARRIS  
KANSAS SENATOR REYNOLDS  
KANSAS SENATOR PAPAY  
KANSAS SENATOR VIDRICKSEN  
KANSAS SENATOR FELECIANO  
KANSAS SENATOR GOOCH  
KANSAS SENATOR LEE

KANSAS REPR. BARBARA BALLARD  
KANSAS SENATOR SHERMAN JONES  
KANSAS PRESS CORP

## Why must we push (now more than ever) for an African American Affairs Advisory Commission?

1. **\$7.8 Billion Budget** -- With a \$7.8 Billion Budget there is more than enough money in Governor Graves' Budget for an African American Affairs Commission (AAAC). Total cost for AAAC = \$180,000.
2. The House position cut \$7.7 million out of the Governor's Budget. That means that in the House (where I serve) we can fund an AAAC almost 50's over(!) with just the money we cut out of the Governor's Budget.
3. **\$44.4 million Sitting in the Bank** -- Revenues for the State of Kansas are \$44.4 million ahead of expenditures. That means that we have another \$44.4 million in addition to the Governors Budget. That money is literally sitting in the bank. It hasn't been spent or even touched in the budget.
4. We take in over \$57.7 million from Lottery and Racing revenues. Of that, the majority (85%) is used for "economic development" programs. What better economic development than establishing an AAAC. Most of this "economic development" money ends up in the form of corporate welfare.
5. Places we can cut...
  - a. Cut money out of the legislative budget (always padded),
  - b. \$6 million extra in administrative costs (fat) associated with 5% downsizing,
  - c. Corporate Welfare got over a \$3 million increase.
6. Its the right thing to do!

**HOUSE BILL No. 2893**

By Representatives R. Nichols, Ballard, Dillon, Edlund, Flora, Garner, Gilbert, Haley, Henderson, Kirk, Long, Luthi, McKechnie, Reardon, Ruff, Sawyer, Toelkes and Wells

2-5

11 AN ACT establishing the advisory commission on African-American af-  
12 fairs; composition thereof; election of officers; powers and duties

13

14 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

15 Section 1. There is hereby established the advisory commission on  
16 African-American affairs hereinafter referred to as the advisory commis-  
17 sion. The advisory commission shall be advisory to the secretary of human  
18 resources.

19 Sec. 2. The advisory commission shall consist of seven members. The  
20 membership of the advisory commission shall include: (a) One member  
21 appointed by the president of the senate; (b) one member appointed by  
22 the minority leader of the senate; (c) one member appointed by the  
23 speaker of the house of representatives; (d) one member appointed by  
24 the minority leader of the house of representatives; and (e) three mem-  
25 bers appointed by the governor. No more than four members shall be  
26 members of the same political party. Each congressional district in the  
27 state of Kansas shall be represented on the advisory commission by at  
28 least one member who is a resident of the district at the time of appoint-  
29 ment. Appointing authorities shall consult each other to assure effectua-  
30 tion of the foregoing requirement. A person appointed to fill a vacancy  
31 which occurs prior to the expiration of a term shall be appointed for the  
32 unexpired term. Each member of the commission shall be appointed for  
33 a three-year term.

34 Sec. 3. (a) The advisory commission shall organize annually by the  
35 election from its membership of a chairperson and a secretary. The ad-  
36 visory commission may adopt such rules of procedure as the commission  
37 deems necessary for the conduct of business.

38 (b) The advisory commission shall meet at least four times a year.  
39 The chairperson may call additional meetings. A majority of members  
40 shall constitute a quorum.

41 (c) Members of the advisory commission attending meetings of such  
42 commission shall be paid amounts provided in subsection (e) of K.S.A.  
43 75-3223, and amendments thereto.

6-5



1 Sec. 4. (a) The advisory commission may appoint, subject to the ap-  
 2 proval of the secretary of human resources, an executive director who  
 3 shall be qualified by education and experience to assume the responsi-  
 4 bilities of such office.

5 (b) The executive director shall be the administrative officer of the  
 6 advisory commission and shall serve the advisory commission by gathering  
 7 information, disseminating findings of fact and other information, for-  
 8 warding proposals and evaluations to the secretary of human resources,  
 9 the governor, the legislature and various state agencies, carrying out pub-  
 10 lic education programs, conducting hearings and conferences and per-  
 11 forming other duties necessary for the proper operation of the advisory  
 12 commission.

13 Sec. 5. The advisory commission shall have the following functions,  
 14 powers and duties:

15 (a) Gather and disseminate information and conduct hearings, con-  
 16 ferences and special studies on problems and programs concerning Af-  
 17 rican-Americans;

18 (b) coordinate, assist and cooperate with the efforts of state  
 19 departments and agencies to serve the needs of African-Americans es-  
 20 pecially in the areas of culture, education, employment, health, housing,  
 21 welfare and recreation;

22 (c) develop, coordinate and assist other public and private associa-  
 23 tions and organizations with understanding the problems of African-  
 24 Americans;

25 (d) develop, coordinate and assist other public and private associa-  
 26 tions and organizations to provide services to African-Americans;

27 (e) propose new programs concerning African-Americans;

28 (f) evaluate existing programs and proposed legislation concerning  
 29 African-Americans;

30 (g) stimulate public awareness of the concerns and problems of Af-  
 31 rican-Americans by conducting a program of public education;

32 (h) conduct training programs for community leadership and service  
 33 project staff;

34 (i) accept contributions to assist in the effectuation of this section and  
 35 seek and enlist the cooperation of private, charitable, religious, labor, civic  
 36 and benevolent organizations for the purposes of this section;

37 (j) solicit, receive and expend federal funds to effectuate the purposes  
 38 of this act and enter into contracts and agreements with any federal  
 39 agency for such purposes; and

(k) establish advisory committees on special subjects.

40 Sec. 6. The executive director of the advisory commission may ap-  
 42 point, subject to the approval of the advisory commission and the secre-  
 43 tary of human resources, technical advisors and assistants to develop,

1 assist and cooperate with local organizations and associations on African-  
 2 American concerns.

3 Sec. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
 4 publication in the statute book.



# The Wichita Eagle

THURSDAY  
March 14, 1996

## House rebuffs Graves, saves Hispanic agency

By Grace Hobson  
The Wichita Eagle

TOPEKA — The House on Wednesday killed the governor's proposal to replace a 22-year-old Hispanic advocacy agency with a multicultural committee, leaving other minorities to fend for themselves.

The move was heralded by Hispanics and by Democrats who have watched their GOP colleagues — until now — steadfastly back Gov. Bill Graves, the state's top Republican.

Legislators also dealt with abortion, gambling, ethics. See Pages 11A, 14A

"I think the governor was very insensitive in the way he has handled this," said House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer, D-Wichita, who is Hispanic. "He basically was telling the Hispanic community that they don't matter anymore, and I think that bothered the Republicans."

The House vote, 75-48, blocks an executive order Graves had signed that would have gotten

### House Democrats are pushing to create a group for blacks similar to the Hispanic one. No bills are pending to create agencies for other minority groups.

a more inclusive group. In response to those who argued that the multicultural agency would offer other minorities a piece of the pie, Rep. Doug Mays, R-Topeka, said the new agency would be so small and ineffective that other groups would be getting "a piece of nothing." The new agency would have operated with less money than KACHA has had in recent years.

"This office will exist in terms of letterhead, but I fear that's about all," Mays said. Mays also argued that Graves' proposal went beyond the purpose of reorganization orders, which is to create efficiencies. Graves' order established policy, and that's for the Legislature to do, Mays said. Snowbarger agreed with that argument but said he did not know of any move by legislators to reorganize KACHA into a group for all minorities.

C.E. "Sonny" Scroggins, an activist for blacks in Topeka, said he hoped lawmakers would work to establish a multicultural affairs committee.

"They would do well to follow the governor's lead in making sure all minorities have a place at the table without infringing on what's been in place for 22 years," said Scroggins, who has worked for years to get blacks an agency similar to KACHA.

"This is the closest we've come to having one," he said.

Grace Hobson writes about state government. She can be reached at (913) 296-3006.

## HISPANIC

From Page 1A  
dropout rate and providing interpreters for the courts.

No other minority group in Kansas has such an agency, a shortcoming Graves hoped to correct with his order.

"The governor's goal all along was to promote government efficiency and to provide a voice for all minority groups in the state," said Graves' spokesman, Mike Matson. "There's simply not enough money for separate, stand-alone organizations for everybody in the minority community. That was the whole idea behind this executive order."

House Democrats are pushing a bill to create a KACHA-like group for blacks. No bills are pending to create similar agencies for other minority groups, none of which has been very visible in the debate about KACHA.

Rep. Ruby Gilbert, D-Wichita, voted to block the multicultural committee in hopes that Hispanics would return the favor and support creating a committee for blacks.

"We'll help them get theirs, and perhaps we can get ours," said Gilbert, who is black. "If I had voted against it, it would have made slim chances for us to get ours."

The chances may be slim anyway, because House Republicans agree with the governor that there isn't any money for more minority agencies.

"I think we have more than enough government agencies as it is," said House Majority Leader Vince Snowbarger, R-Olathe, who voted for blocking Graves' proposed multicultural affairs committee. "People may think it's racist, but I don't care if a farm group asks for a new agency. Many of us are in a roll-back mood."

Snowbarger and 33 other Republicans were not in enough of a roll-back mood Wednesday, however, to vote for abolishing KACHA in favor of

"When you stop and think about it, they're attacking the minorities as a whole. They'd like us to be at each other's throats, but it's not going to happen."

Rita Chavez, Wichita activist for Hispanics

KACHA has worked for instance, to block legislation that would designate English as the state's official language. It has also worked against legislation that would end the state's open admissions policy at Regents universities.

KACHA has a newsletter it sends to Hispanic community organizations keeping them abreast of legislative issues. It also conducts symposiums at universities around the state to introduce Hispanic teens to college life.

"We need a vehicle of commitment from the state on down," said Richard Lopez, director of SER, a job-training program in Wichita. "This office is that vehicle. Other than that, it's the shotgun approach — you're lucky to get information. This office brought us specific information."

At one point, KACHA had four full-time staff members. Now Brown, the information director, is the lone staffer. Before Graves fired the staff — except for Brown because she's a civil service employee — the office had a director, an executive director, a secretary, two part-time law clerks and a part-time translator.

Brown has submitted her resignation, effective March 15. She worries about what will happen to the people KACHA has served, but she thinks Graves' plan could work if he hires an executive director who is committed to the Hispanic community.

Mike Matson, Graves' press secretary, said the governor is looking for a bilingual director.

So far, it appears that those in the black community who are willing to accept Graves' proposal are the only ones looking for common ground.

"It's almost at the point where we have to take what we can get," said Rep. Ruby Gilbert, D-Wichita, who would rather have a committee specifically for blacks. "I hate thinking like that."

C.E. "Sonny" Scroggins, a Topeka activist who calls himself a "racial reformist," hails Graves for doing what no governor has done since Robert Docking created KACHA.

"Bill Graves is trying to do right by everybody," Scroggins said. "I consider him an exceptional leader, a visionary leader who wants to ensure everybody can sit at the table."

"I'm just tickled black to have something."

Grace Hobson writes about state government. She can be reached at (913) 296-3006.

# DIVERSE

From Page 1A

KACHA has been in existence for more than 20 years, Sawyer said, "and now the governor comes and says they're not needed."

For blacks, establishment of the multicultural affairs office represents the first response they've had after years of calling for an advisory committee of their own, like KACHA. Some think the new agency is better than nothing; others, like many Hispanics, think the new agency will serve no one's needs.

"Generally speaking, when we go multicultural, we dilute whatever strength African-Americans had in asking for an advisory committee," said Billy McCray, who publishes The Community Voice newspaper in Wichita. In addition to other topics, the newspaper's articles often deal with issues that affect blacks.

Ever since KACHA was formed, blacks have called for an advisory committee of their own. Women have also called for a committee. Last year, the House passed legislation to create a committee for blacks. A Senate committee, headed by a Hispanic senator, killed the bill.

Graves thought he had found middle ground by creating an umbrella group to serve all ethnicities.

"In an era where consolidation and reorganization are the keys to a more efficient government, it makes little sense to fund individual interest groups when an all-encompassing committee would be more effective and inclusive," Graves said in a weekly column he sends to newspapers. "I'm convinced it's more economical-ly feasible as well as harmonious to allow groups to work together for betterment of the whole."

But many say that instead of helping ethnic groups work together, Graves has divided them more than ever.

"It's going to pit the groups against each other, and that's not even talking about Native Americans and Asians; they don't seem to be coming up in the dialogue yet," said Michelle Brown, the only staffer left at KACHA since December, when Graves fired the non-classified staff in preparation for the reorganization.

Rita Chavez, a Wichita activist for Hispanics, hopes the groups stop fighting each other and organize against the architects of the squabble.

"When you stop and think about it, they're attacking the minorities as a whole," said Chavez, a Hispanic liaison at Project Freedom. "They'd like us to be at each other's throats, but it's not going to happen."

KACHA was founded in 1974 to educate the state's growing Hispanic community about the legislative process. The idea was that Hispanics have unique concerns, such as language and issues involving migrant workers.



# The Wichita Eagle

TUESDAY

February 20, 1996

## Minority groups divided over Graves' plan

By Grace Hobson  
The Wichita Eagle

TOPEKA — In proving the adage that when you try to please everyone, you please no one, Gov. Bill Graves has set off a battle between the state's Hispanics and blacks.

It's only a matter of time before other minority groups — and women — join the fray. It all started two weeks ago when Graves signed a relatively minor executive order that abolishes a little agency — it uses only \$157,000 of the state's \$8 billion budget — and moves it into a new agency. The little agency is the Kansas Advisory

### LEGISLATURE '96

**Getting tough:** House panel studies bills to tighten child support collections. See page 7A

Committee on Hispanic Affairs, better known as KACHA, which provides Hispanics access to the legislative process through education and lobbying efforts. The new agency would be a multicultural affairs office, which would do the same thing that KACHA did, but for the state's other minority groups — most notably

blacks — as well. The result has been a fight for territory, and for the symbolic commitment of government to historically disadvantaged minority groups. The fight will culminate Wednesday when a joint House-Senate committee will hold a hearing on the order. Several bills have been introduced to block it, as well as to create a separate agency for blacks. If the bills aren't successful, the order will take effect July 1.

"We have all been placed by the governor in a very precarious, Catch-22 situation," said Rogelio Lasso, chairman of KACHA's board. "I don't believe for one

minute that the governor is doing this for any other intent but to try to do what's best and what's right. I don't think he's trying to hurt anyone. I simply don't believe it's the best avenue to approach the problem."

For Hispanics who have relied upon KACHA since 1974 to help them break down cultural and language barriers, Graves' order is tantamount to setting their needs aside, probably to be forgotten. "The message that the governor is sending to the Hispanic community is that they don't matter any more," said Rep. Tom Sawyer, D-Wichita, who is Hispanic.

"I'm convinced it's more economically feasible as well as harmonious to allow groups to work together for betterment of the whole."

Gov. Bill Graves

# OPINION



THE TOPEKA  
CAPITAL-JOURNAL

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## EDITORIALS

### MINORITY AFFAIRS

# Take big-picture view

**P**erhaps state government can do more to advance issues important to African-Americans. But a proposal to create a new commission on African-American affairs is a bad idea — this is no time to create new state bureaucracies.

In addition, an alternative suggestion by a Topeka group to abolish the state Human Rights Commission — which monitors the rights of all — and turn it into a commission on African-American affairs is patently offensive and approaches being racist.

If anything, the Human Rights Commission should be given more resources to do its job: The agency is so overwhelmed now, complaints of discrimination with regard to housing and employment can go unheard for more than a year, perhaps two.

The best alternative is to turn the existing Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs into a broader minority affairs commission.

The commission could research and cross-reference issues of interest to all minorities and provide valuable data to the executive and legislative

**■ A joint minority affairs commission would be better than separate groups for each minority.**

branches of state government.

The commission also could contain subsets dedicated to particular minorities — eliminating the argument that a single minority commission would be too diluted.

Local African-American activist Sonny Scroggins is to be commended for pushing this issue to the fore. But he needs to be realistic: He is asking to form what amounts to a new lobbying organization within a state government that most everyone agrees is already too large and expensive. And to get it, he appears willing to strip the Human Rights Commission — the state's best tool for fighting discrimination against all races.

Self-interest can be carried only so far. One must be willing at some point to look at the larger picture.

After all, we might be surprised at what we have in common.

Mr. C.E. "Sonny" Scroggins  
3730 Truman  
Topeka, Kansas 66609  
Telephone: (913) 267-5381

3 February 1996

PREPARED FOR DELIVERY TO THE CAPITAL JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARD

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press:

1991  
House Bill  
2283

Good morning to you all. As a member of the African-American History Month (State and Regional) Founder's Commission, it is on this 31st Anniversary of the Founding of the Observance as Black History Month, that I am pleased to extend to you my Greetings of the day.

You are as surely aware as am I, of the recent spate of editorials, wire service reports and local staff writer hard hitting articles on the general subject matter of the African-American community's call for a "Commission on African-American Affairs." However, you may not be aware that those reports and editorials have, for the most part, ill-served the high purpose of public debate on that admittedly controversial issue.

For albeit the citizens of the State of Kansas must regard the media's First Amendment Rights as as sacrosanct as their own individual and collective First Amendment Right practices, "We the People" also have both the obligation and the right to admonish the media for those excesses of passion, and perhaps even unintended race-baiting responses to responsible public debate. For such repertorial and editorial irresponsibility, not only serves no useful problem-solving purpose, but far worse... defeats the noble purposes of public debate on issues of public concern.

It is in this context, that I and an "inclusive" group of citizens, deplored the Capital Journal's reference to (and I quote) "An alternative suggestion by a Topeka Group to abolish the State Human Rights Commission - which monitors the rights of all - and turn it into a commission on African-American Affairs, is patently offensive and approaches being racist."

As that statement is all too reminiscent of the pre-Civil Rights Era "race-relations" mindsets which dominated the American White-owned media, I would urge our local and State media, both White-owned and Black owned, to take special care in monitoring the quality of its repertorial and editorial responses to all subject matter related to race-relations. For there can be no aware Kansan of any colour, creed or culture, who is unaware that the resurgence of racist tensions in American society, is at an all time post-Civil Rights Era high.

In that context, I need not remind you, that the daily news reports of the deteriorating condition of the African-American family; the reference to the African-American male as an endangered species; the escalating indices of heinous crimes perpetrated by black youth gangs; the widespread hopelessness of Black homeless youths and adults... indeed whole Black families; the endemic spread of drugs and AIDS within and beyond the Black Community; the high illegitimacy and mortality rate of Black babies and the morbid realities of Black life in these United States of a racist America, remain ineffectively responded to in the State of Kansas, by both the official and private sector.

To African-Americans, it is beyond shocking, that the State of Kansas and the media, would be so ill-informed about the "State of the African-American Community," that they could actually believe that the root source of the Black Community's economic-social, political, educational and cultural condition, has any historical or present day relationship whatsoever to related area problems which affect the lives of our Hispanic, Asian or Native American community Brothers and Sisters.

Accordingly, when the media suggests that an overall commission might better serve the purposes of a Commission on African-American Affairs, from my point of view, and that of many African-Americans, the overall character of such a suggestion, more than suggests that the underlying strategic purpose of that suggestion, may be related to the traditional American "coverall" approach to race-relations problem-solving. Such an approach, I might add, has obviously yielded some very real post Civil Rights "CHANGES" in race relations, but no fundamental "PROGRESS" in the context of the great disparities which still exist between our State of Kansas' Black and White communities.

In a 15 January CNN "Early Prime" telecast honouring the 67th nationally celebrated Birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the most clear and concise references to the disparity which exists between the Black and White communities in the United States, was delivered by the Founder of the Black History Month Observance, Dr. Robert Starling Pritchard, who has visited this State on many occasions. On the CNN telecast, Dr. Pritchard stated... and I quote:

"I believe that we have indeed come very far, not only since 1619 but absolutely since the so-called Civil Rights Era. However in order to understand how far we have come, we have to really understand the difference between "change" and "progress." For example, if one were to measure the relationship between Blacks and Whites economically in 1619, 1719, 1819 and 1919, one will always find Blacks at the bottom of the line. As we approach 2019, unless we do something in our country to create EQUITY OF ACCESS TO EQUALITY OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, that disparity between Blacks and Whites will continue. Although one has to acknowledge there is no longer slavery, from that point of view there has been change, but one can hardly say the same for progress."

What was particularly of interest to me about Dr. Pritchard's view of race-relations, was that it was a view that was not only shared, but validated by the statistical research of the CNN "Early Prime" co-guest and White Race Relations Specialist, Professor Andrew Hacker, author of the best selling book, "Two Nations, Black and White, Separate, Hostile and Unequal."

Moreover, when I made the effort to personally discuss this matter with Dr. Pritchard, I was delighted to learn that he too had once faced the very same dilemma that we have gathered here today to discuss. He stated that though the problems that issue from endemic official and private sector racism are normally clear only to the victims, they are, to a greater extent, less clear to the White perpetrators and even to the non-White perpetrators. He asserted that it is always predictable that the majority citizens in a racist society will not be particularly inclined to officially address the issue of racism. "Moreover," he stated, "almost without exception, the official sector and the local media, will raise the 'red flag' of 'costs' for the purpose of diluting the drama of the public debate."

"Finally," Dr. Pritchard stated, "I have always found that unless the private sector supports a measure strategized to enjoin the official sector in addressing the issue of endemic racialism in a State and/or local community, by substantially eliminating the factor of costs, the White 'nays' will have it and Black 'yeas' will be summarily defeated."

Accordingly, Dr. Pritchard has for years urged proteges like "yours truly," to promote the suggestion of a State nominally sponsored Commission on African-American Affairs, to which a prominent "inclusive" group of "one dollar per year" Race Relations professional specialists and lay persons be appointed

to work for the public good. He further suggested that the existing office managerial facilities of related agencies of the State Government, could sacrificially share their office space and resources with a Commission on African-American Affairs until such times as the economy and public attitudes become more favourable to funding such a Commission from either official or private sector sources.

In this regard, as a ranking member of the National State and Regional African-American History Month Founder's Commission, it is on this 31st Anniversary of the founding of the Black History Month Observance, that I am pleased to draw to your attention the following four part theme of the observance, which addresses the very state of the Black American community in the State of Kansas, that has been the implicit reference of my remarks today.

...Equity of Access to Equality of Economic Opportunity for Americans of African descent as Citizens of a culturally diverse society;

...Equity of Access to "Colour Blind" Justice for Americans of African descent and other American Citizens-of-Colour, through "Colour Blind" treatment by Local, County and State Law Enforcement Officers and the Judiciary of Lower and Upper Courts;

...Equity of Access to fair and impartial repertorial and editorial treatment and coverage by the print and sound media of Black community and Black personality subject matter, including the renunciation of stereotypical, sensationalist and such racist slants as have traditionally exacerbated ethnic and socio-economic class divisions between the American Black Community and other American ethnic and religious communities of all Colours, Creeds and socio-economic classes.

...Equity of Access to Equality of Educational Opportunity for Americans of all Colours, Creeds and Cultures, particularly in the Lower, Middle and Secondary Public School classroom environment, where all students may benefit from exposure to textbooks, visual-aids, libraries and "teacher-friendly" attitudes towards culturally inclusive depictions of the history of Americans of African descent in the United States, throughout all of the New World Lands of the African Diaspora and in Ancient and Modern Africa.

In thanking you for your kind attention to my remarks, I particularly want each of you to know, that you may expect my support of the media's right to responsibly report and editorialize its views on race-relations in the State of Kansas. However, I would also hope, that the media would commit itself to do so, with a greater commitment to research both its reported facts and opinions, before disseminating its views to a public which is traditionally more acclimated to the racist roots of divisiveness between our Black and White communities. For with the wealth of published materials on the subject of race-relations written by both Black and White Race Relations Experts, most assuredly your editors and reporters could research those historical and statistical studies supporting their pro or con points of view. For from such responsible efforts, journalists can avoid the dangers attendant upon the use of the term "racist" to sensationally characterize the views of a Black person or group with which it does not agree.

It is then ladies and gentlemen, in the spirit of the Jewish oriented "Come let us reason together" maxim, that I thank you for the opportunity to share my race relations views with you, on this 31st Anniversary of the Founding of the Black History Month Observance in February 1965.

C.E. "Sonny" Scroggins  
C.E. Sonny Scroggins

## Group seeking one million letters of support for formation of African American commission

Bias Busters of Kansas is asking the public to write letters to the governor and legislature in support of establishing the Kansas Commission on African-American Affairs. There is currently a commission on Hispanic Affairs.

"We have worked with the past <sup>four</sup>~~three~~ governors to establish this commission to insure Kansas Government serves all of its citizens," said Verlene Scroggins, chairman. "The current commission on Hispanic Affairs has been of great service to Kansans. The African-American community deserves the opportunity to provide a similar service to Kansans," she explained. "The letters from across the nation will demonstrate the importance of establishing the Commission."

Letters should be mailed to Bud Burke, president, Kansas Senate and Timothy Shallenberger, speaker, Kansas House of Representatives, and Governor Bill Graves, 3rd Floor, Capitol Building, Topeka KS, 66612 by April 4, 1996. This is the annual Inclusion Day in Kansas, with a program held on the Capitol grounds at the Dr. Martin Luther King and Amy Biehl Memorial Tree.

For more information, contact Verlene Scroggins, 913-267-5381 or Rebecca Fox, 913-233-5204.



# Order to abolish Hispanic group draws criticism

Kansas Star

By MARY SANCHEZ  
Staff Writer

Efforts are under way to repeal an executive order by Gov. Bill Graves that abolished a committee looking after the interests of Kansas Hispanics.

A meeting Friday between about 50 activists and legislators persuaded the House and Senate minority leaders to introduce resolutions reversing Graves' move to eliminate the Kansas Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs and fold it into a new multicultural commission.

The fate of the committee has been a concern after its executive director was fired in December by the Republican administration of Graves.

Activists feared the committee would be killed because of pressure to create a similar one for African-Americans, who outnumber Hispanics in the state by about 50,000.

Under the Kansas Constitution, the governor's order can be overridden if the House or the Senate approves a resolution opposing the order, said Mike Matson, the governor's press secretary.

Ana Riojas, a Hispanic activist from Lenexa, attended Friday's session.

"There is a tremendous sense of outrage," Riojas said. "With one stroke of a pen, he eliminated us."

But activists who urged Graves to create an African-American committee similar to the Hispanic

one commended the governor's move.

"I salute Gov. Bill Graves, his leadership and his vision," said C.E. Scroggins of Topeka. "I think this was the only option he had."

Sen. Jerry Karr of Emporia and Rep. Tom Sawyer of Wichita plan to introduce resolutions Monday to repeal the governor's order.

On Tuesday, Graves signed an executive reorganization order terminating the Hispanic committee and replacing the Kansas Human Rights Commission with the Kansas Commission on Diversity and Human Rights.

Another group, the Kansas Office of Multicultural Affairs, also was established by the order. That office would fall under the new diversity commission.

The Hispanic committee had trained Spanish-speaking interpreters for the Kansas courts and government agencies, looked into discrimination complaints and worked with state departments to evaluate how programs affect Hispanics. It had a budget of \$154,000.

The committee also monitored the problems of the fast-growing Mexican population in western portions of the state, where workers are being drawn by jobs in meatpacking plants.

The committee was created by the Legislature in 1974, as a result of lobbying by Hispanic activists concerned about a lack of representation.

# Hispanic leaders fear for group's future

## Committee leader's firing may be a sign of the end, they say.

By MARY SANCHEZ  
Staff Writer

Hispanic leaders are concerned that the firing this week of the executive director of the Kansas Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs is the first step toward eliminating the group.

Eva Pereira was told Wednesday to clear her things from the Topeka office where she has led the committee for five years. The committee was created by the Legislature in 1974 and looks after the interests of the state's 93,670 Hispanics.

Pereira said the committee, which has a budget of \$154,000, can be abolished only with new legislation. But state officials may be trying to terminate the committee by attrition because a secretary's position has gone unfilled and law clerks' contracts have not been renewed, she said.

"My termination is not the issue," Pereira said. "The issue is, are they going to restaff this place?"

Wayne Franklin, secretary of the Kansas Department of Human Resources, said he has not made a decision about the committee's future and his department is under a hiring freeze.

Franklin's department oversees the Hispanic advisory committee.

"We have to look at how we can manage with less money and yet provide quality services and impact everyone," Franklin said. "Those things that have been going on for years are going to be evaluated for their effectiveness."

Franklin has been pressured to create a similar committee for African-Americans in Kansas, who outnumber Hispanics by about 50,000. There has been some discussion of creating an umbrella multicultural committee, which Hispanic leaders fear would dilute their concerns.

Also, Pereira's firing had more to do with the politics of the new Republican administration of Gov. Bill Graves, Franklin said. Pereira originally was appointed to her post under the Democratic administration of Gov. Joan Finney.

"If we have an organization that represents all minorities, we have an organization that represents no minorities," said Rogelio Lasso, chairman of the committee's board and a law professor at Washburn University.

"We have different types of needs than the black community," Lasso said. "The majority of our population is rural while the majority of the black population is

# Hispanic advocates meeting in K

By MARY SANCHEZ  
Staff Writer

Leaders of Hispanic agencies in the Midwest are gathering in Kansas City this weekend to discuss their needs and develop strategies to make their desires heard at the national level.

Agency leaders from Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois and other states are expected to attend the meetings of the National Council of La Raza Midwest Affiliates Caucus, which began Friday and will conclude today.

Officials from the National Council of La Raza's Chicago office are holding the meetings at the Guadalupe Center on Kansas City's West Side. More than a dozen leaders are expected to attend the meetings.

The National Council of La Raza is a Washington-based advocacy organization for Hispanics. In this area, both the Guadalupe Center and El Centro, in Kansas City, Kan., are La Raza affiliates.

The meetings are in preparation for next July's meeting in Denver, where La Raza affiliates from across the United States will gather.

Each of the leaders received a packet of information detailing legislative proposals on the federal budget, earned income tax credit, Medicaid, immigration, welfare and affirmative action. Their opinions of the issues will be gathered in meetings today.

Midwestern Hispanics have needs that are different from

their coastal peers, said Carmona, technical specialist from Chicago such as colder weather conditions and the growing packing industry that many Mexicans are unique to central states.

Also, Midwestern Hispanics cannot be stereotyped as arrivals to America, said Banda, community development manager with the Chicago office. Many of the Hispanics living in the Midwest are descendants of workers who the early 1900's to build roads.

"We have to build future history," Banda said. "It is going to be an important part of America's future."

tor of El Centro, a Kansas City, Kan.-based social service agency. "Minority," too often, is just viewed as being black," Ruiz said.

Ruiz, Pereira and Lasso said they are not opposed to the formation of a committee for African-Americans, but do not want to

lose the emphasis on migrant workers, language issues and discrimination cases that are unique to Hispanics.

The Hispanic advisory committee trains Spanish-speaking interpreters for Kansas court systems and government agencies, moni-

tors the legislature, local discrimination complaints with state departments how programs affect Hispanics.

The committee also is monitoring the problem of fast-growing Mexican immigrants in western portions of

# Organization challenges Legislature on minority issues

By JOHN HANNA  
The Associated Press

**H**ow should state government deal with issues of concern to minorities, such as discrimination and poverty?

Should the state establish a group to study those matters and make policy recommendations? Does it need more than one group — even one for each distinct minority?

Those questions could be raised with the Legislature this year.

A proposal to create a Commission on African-American Affairs has been floating for years, but it hasn't received an enthusiastic enough response from legislators to win enactment.

Now, a vocal supporter is promising a renewed push for such legislation. But his efforts come at a time when the Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs in the Department of Human Resources is in limbo.

"We're going to have to do something, regardless of what we call it," said Sonny Scroggins, a black Topeka civil rights activist.

Debate over whether the state takes seriously issues of concern to minorities — especially blacks — was reignited in October, with the Million Man March that brought hundreds of thousands of black men to Washington, D.C.

Scroggins contends the state needs a commission to deal with issues specific to the state's more than 141,000 black residents.

He mentions discrimination in housing, unemployment and crime. A group he founded, Bias Busters of Kansas, even wrote Nation of Islam Leader Louis Farrakhan, who organized the Washington march, asking for financial help.

The House approved a bill to create a commission in 1991, but the Senate Governmental Organization Committee rejected it the next year, citing the added costs of a new commission.

Scroggins has suggested taking the state's Human Rights Commission — which reviews housing, employment and other discrimination complaints — and turning it into the Commission on African-American Affairs. Bias Busters is now pushing the idea.

"We're trying to come up with an alternative," Scroggins said. "We can't do everything, but that's no excuse not to do anything."

The Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs has been in limbo since its director was fired in December by the secretary of human resources, Wayne Franklin. She had been an appointee of Democratic Gov. Joan Finney, and Franklin was an appointee of Finney's successor, Republican Gov. Bill Graves.

Franklin, who is black, said he hasn't yet had time to decide the future of the Hispanic Affairs committee.

His actions caused Hispanic activists to worry that the commission would be disbanded or reformed as a new panel on minority affairs with an overly broad charge.

But Franklin said: "There's reduced levels of funding. Government has got to think of the big picture and how we can use the money we have to serve more people."

State funding covers the costs of staff, office space and per diem payments to commission members. The Hispanic Affairs committee receives about \$154,000 a year, the Human Rights Commission about \$1.9 million. A Commission on African-American Affairs likely would cost between \$150,000 and \$200,000 a year.

Scroggins said he is concerned that having a single commission would dilute the study of issues specific to any one group.

And, he noted, the state's black and Hispanic populations have some different interests.

According to the last federal census, three-quarters of all black Kansans live in only five of the state's 105 counties: Wyandotte, Geary, Riley, Sedgwick and Shawnee.

The Hispanic population in Kansas is less concentrated. There are 10 counties where more than 10 percent of the residents are Hispanic, according to the census, and all of them are in southwest Kansas. But only 23 percent of the state's more than 90,000 Hispanic residents live in those 10 counties.

The Hispanic Affairs committee was formed in 1974. Not only did it review discrimination complaints and monitor the Legislature, but it trained Spanish-speaking interpreters for the courts and state agencies.

Scroggins believes the state needs a separate Commission on African-American Affairs, but said of the Hispanic Affairs committee, "I wouldn't want it to be at their expense."

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL

# Topeka/Kansas

Sunday, January 14, 1996 Page 12A

# Panel for Hispanics spurs call from other minorities

**Kansas has funded group since 1974.  
Activists say more groups want chance.**

By MARY SANCHEZ  
Staff Writer

Kansas is biased, several activists claim, because it funds a committee to address the concerns of Hispanic residents but ignores the needs of black people and other minorities.

Since 1974, the Kansas Legislature has funded the Kansas Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs. No such group exists for African-Americans, although they outnumber Hispanics by 50,000 in Kansas.

State officials argue that Kansas is caught between a desire to treat everyone fairly and a budget crunch.

Wayne Franklin, secretary of the Kansas Department of Human Resources, said the issue will have to be addressed as minority populations grow.

"It's going to be a tough issue to decide how we deal with those needs," said Franklin, whose department oversees the Hispanic advisory committee.

The committee was created by the Legislature. Its seven board members are appointed to three-year terms by the governor.

More than 143,000 black people live in Kansas. This is about 5.8 percent of the state's population, according to the 1990 U.S. Census. Nearly 94,000 Hispanics live in the state, about 3.8 percent of the population.

The Hispanic affairs committee received \$154,000 from the state this year, said Eva Pereira, the committee's executive director.

Pereira said her organization's responsibilities range from working with state departments to evaluate how programs affect Hispanics to addressing civil rights issues.

The three-employee Hispanic committee is not opposed to establishing a similar panel to address the needs and concerns of other minorities, Pereira said.

Sonny Scroggins of Topeka, an African-American and civil rights activist, said he doesn't want to

cause problems for the Hispanic group but wants to ensure that issues of concern to the state's black residents are addressed.

"We just want the same chance that has been provided for the Hispanics," he said.

Another supporter, Rebecca Fox, said a committee for African-Americans would provide an opportunity for the black community's concerns to reach state officials and other policy makers.

"The government isn't really working for all of the people at this point," said Fox, who is white and is a member of Bias Busters of Kansas, a group aimed at eliminating racism. "This is one way to help it do that."

But Franklin noted that the state also has a large Asian community emerging around Garden City and Dodge City. American Indians in Kansas also have many issues significant to them, such as casinos and reservations.

"With less money, those that are leading our state are going to have to seriously prioritize what we want government to accomplish," Franklin said. "We can't be all to everyone."

During budget negotiations last year, hearings were held to discuss making the Hispanic affairs committee a multicultural organization to look after the needs of many groups in Kansas, said Rogelio Lasso, chairman of the committee and a law professor at Washburn University.

The idea was scrapped, Lasso said, after opponents argued that forming a committee to address the needs of all people of color, women and the disabled would be too broad.

"I thought that wasn't really a

positive step: to have an office for minority affairs that purports to represent everybody," Lasso said. "There is no way to do just

81-9

# Topeka/Kansas

Thursday, October 19, 1995

THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

95-1181  
95-1194

## Bias Busters requests financial help from Farrakhan

### Funds sought for African-American affairs commission.

**INEERA NASEER**  
Capital-Journal

Bias Busters of Kansas, a Topeka community organization, sent a letter Wednesday to Islam minister Louis Farrakhan requesting financial help in setting up a Kansas commission on African-American affairs. The letter doesn't ask for a specific

amount.

C.E. "Sonny" Scroggins, founder of Bias Busters, said the letter was being sent in the wake of the Million Man March, which took place Monday in Washington.

Scroggins said the donation could be used by the state to set up the

commission, which would look at social, economic and other problems facing black people in the state and offer solutions.

"I don't know why they would not accept it," he said. "This would develop a partnership between the state and the community. We're just

trying to explore all our options."

Mike Matson, Gov. Bill Graves' press secretary, said the state doesn't have funds to create new commissions or programs because of a tight budget and cutbacks.

However, he said the state wouldn't have a problem accepting donations from the community or other sources in setting up such a commission.

"We are open to any and all sug-

gestions," Matson said. "It's an idea that we would like to encourage. The government is open to good sound public policy."

He said although a specific commission on black affairs doesn't exist, there are several advisory committees, including the Kansas Human Rights Commission, that deal with minorities and are required by law to be ethnically diverse in their makeup.

< \_\_\_\_\_ >

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A civil rights activist says Gov. Bill Graves needs to push legislators into considering a proposal to create a state Commission on African-American Affairs.

A bill to create the commission was introduced in the House about two weeks ago, but so far the Governmental Organization and Elections Committee has not taken action on it.

The House also killed an executive order from Graves reorganizing the Human Rights Commission into a minority affairs commission. The order drew strong opposition because it eliminated the Kansas Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs in the Department of Human Resources.

The Hispanic Affairs Commission has been in existence since 1974. Efforts to create an independent commission representing blacks have failed.

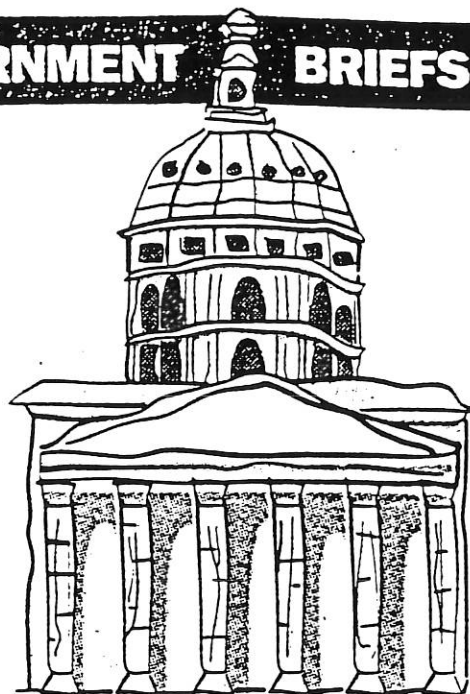
“We will continue to push on this,” said C.E. “Sonny” Scroggins, a Topeka activist. “This is just not going to go away.”

Scroggins continued to praise Graves but said, “I think we ought to get through this and get something done.”

< \_\_\_\_\_ >

Monday, March 6, 1995

GOVERNMENT BRIEFS



LOBBY DAY

■ Activities planned for April 4 —

Kansas Legislator Lobby Day for Inclusion has been scheduled for April 4 by Kansas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Committee and Bias Busters of Kansas.

The groups are encouraging Kansans to lobby state legislators that day — the 27th anniversary of King's assassination in Memphis, Tenn. — to include all Kansas citizens in all facets of state politics.

A Buffalo Soldier on horseback will circle the Statehouse intermittently from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. At 6 p.m., a ceremony will be held at the MLK tree at the south entrance to the Statehouse. Margaret James will be the speaker and a birthday cake in honor of poet Maya Angelou will be served.

GOVERNMENT

THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Civ  
County  
State  
Nation





—Jane Rudolph/The Capital-Journal

Sharon Johnson of Topeka spoke under a memorial tree on the Statehouse grounds Tuesday evening to mark the 27th anniversary of

the slaying of Martin Luther King Jr. Another speaker lamented that people still tend to label each other by race or religion.

## Topekan remembers the day King fell

Program outside Statehouse focused on keeping Martin Luther King Jr.'s memory alive.

By TIM HRENCHIR  
The Capital-Journal

**S**haron Johnson won't forget April 4, 1968 — the day Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

Johnson recalls that she explained the significance of King's slaying to her three small children on the day of his death.

"I can remember very clearly what it did to me," she said during an address Tuesday on the Statehouse grounds.

Earlier on Tuesday — 27 years to the day after King's slaying — Johnson had asked some stu-

dents at Highland Park High School, where she is study hall supervisor, if they knew what anniversary it was.

"To my amazement and sadness, they did not know," Johnson said at Tuesday's program, which drew about 30 people.

The program, focused on keeping King's memory and dream alive, marked Tuesday as Kansas Legislator Lobby Day for inclusion.

It was sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Committee, Bias Busters of Kansas and the Kansas Fever Committee. All are Topeka-based groups.

Participants from various races braved easterly winds and temperatures in the mid-40s to meet for about an hour on the south side of the Statehouse.

They gathered at a tree memorializing King: Michelle Tate, who was killed in Wellington in 1992; and Amy Biehl, a young Fulbright Scholar killed in South Africa in 1993.

Speakers encouraged those in attendance to

continue to pursue King's dream of equality and justice for all.

Johnson, a founding member of the Kansas Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Committee, pointed out that U.S. minorities in recent decades have made great strides toward racial equality in such areas as transportation and education.

Tuesday's keynote speaker, Dennis Feighny of Bias Busters, lamented that people still tend to label each other by race or religion.

Quoting King, he urged people to think of everyone else "as fellow human beings made of the same basic stuff as we, molded in the same divine images."

Feighny said world history is full of stories of oppression against blacks, Jews, Indians and other members of minority groups.


He encouraged listeners to oppose such oppression in a non-violent manner.

Quoting King again, he said the choice "is no longer between violence and non-violence. It's between non-violence and non-existence."



# Press Release

To : All Media outlets

From:  C.E. "Sonny" Scroggins  
Bias Busters of Kansas

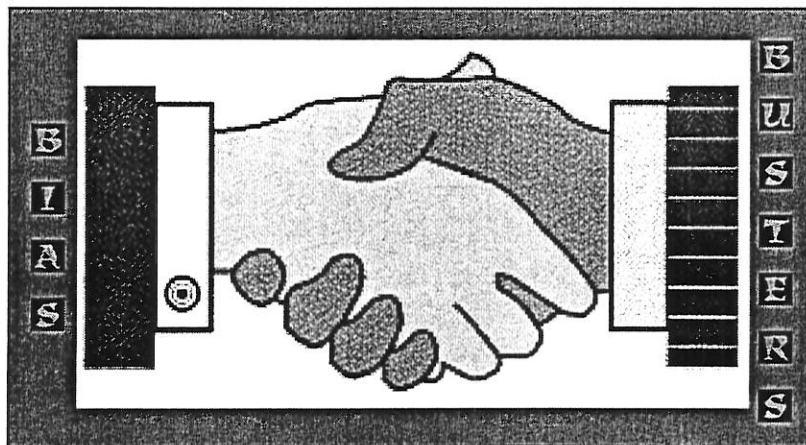
Subject: 3rd Annual Kansas Inclusion Day

## **APRIL 4, 1997**

Come celebrate the **3rd Annual Kansas Inclusion Day**, endorsed last year by the **National Council of Churches**. This is the 29th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The celebration will be by the **MLK, Michelle Tate, & Amy Biehl Tree** at the **South Side entrance of the State Capitol Building** at 5:30 pm. The honorable **Joan Wagnon** will give the keynote address. The Mitchell Singers will perform.

Bias Busters supports Mayoral Hopeful Joan Wagnon.



For more information, contact C.E. "Sonny" Scroggins, 267-5381 or  
Beverly Dawson, 233-5100

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION  
BY THE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, The 27th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee, will be marked as Kansas Inclusion Day on April 4, 1995; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King stated that ultimately a great nation is a compassionate nation, no individual or nation can be great if it does not have a concern for the least of thee; and

WHEREAS, It is of great importance to include all Kansas citizens in all facets of state politics; and

WHEREAS, A buffalo soldier on horseback will circle the Statehouse for the last time this century on April 4, 1995, and a 6:00 PM program at the MLK Memorial Tree on the south side of the Statehouse will feature remarks by Dennis Feighny; and

WHEREAS, All Kansas citizens (races, religions and cultures) are encouraged to come and celebrate diversity as our state government continues its efforts toward a multi-racial/multi-ethnic society; and

WHEREAS, The history of our great state is one of hard work, rugged individualism, and compassionate leadership, which we are entrusted to cultivate and preserve; and

WHEREAS, Kansas state government must always seek to create an environment in which men and women of all races, religions, cultures can address each other in a spirit of open and honest discussion, free of blame and victimization, the principle of trusting consultation, grounded in the belief that truth lies not in the individual perspective, but in the unity of diverse souls, which is fundamental to good government, touching every sphere of Kansas life; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Committee, the Grant Cushberry Citywide Praise and Worship Committee, Bias Busters of Kansas, and the Kansas Fever Committee has served as a facilitator in promoting Cross-Cultural and Cross-Denominational Activities for 16 years in Topeka and Kansas; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Committee, and the State of Kansas would like to thank the Jewish Community Relations Bureau of Overland Park, Kansas, and the Kansas State Historical Society Center for Historical Research:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim April 4, 1995, as

*Kansas Inclusion Day*

in the State of Kansas, and invite the participation of every sector of the population regardless of race, color, creed or religion.

DONE At the Capitol in Topeka  
under the Great Seal of  
the State this 31st day of  
March, A.D. 1995

BY THE GOVERNOR:

  
Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State



**Kansas Fever Committee and Bias Busters of Kansas  
Present**

**"40 Acres and a Mule vs. Affirmative Action Forum"**

**Friday Evening, March 15, 1996**

**6:00 p.m.**

**in the**

**Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library's Marvin Auditorium**

**Guest Speakers**

**Rep. Rocky Nichols and William E. Richards, Sr.**

Rep. Nichols is the primary author of HB 2893, to establish an Advisory Committee on African-American Affairs; Anti-Racist Action, a group of youths dedicated to fighting racism.

Mr. Richards will discuss his paper "Who Gives a Diddy...About Customer Satisfaction,"

**Watch for These Upcoming Events!!!**

**Onan C. Burnett Appreciation Day**

**March 27, 1996**

**Noon- 2:00 p.m.**

**Capital City School**

**Music by LeRoy Garvin**

**Inclusion Day**

**(Endorsed by the National Council of Churches)**

**William "Bill" Richards Appreciation Day**

**April 4, 1996**

**6:00 p.m.**

**South Side of the Statehouse Grounds**

**at the**

**Martin Luther King, Jr.;**

**Michelle Tate; Amy Biehl Memorial Tree**

**Music by the Lighthouse Quartet**

**Join the Bias Busters of Kansas**

**at a reception in commemoration of the 100 year anniversary of the historic  
Plessy vs Ferguson Decision, establishing "separate but equal,"  
a decision overturned by the Brown vs Topeka Board of Education**

**May 17, 1996 at Noon**

**Scott Computer Technology Magnet School**

**401 SE Market**

# 'Inclusion Day' draws wide mix

By TIM HRENCHIR  
The Capital-Journal

## Moment of silence held for Ron Brown.

**A**n "Inclusion Day" observance to celebrate cultural diversity brought a veritable melting pot of people Thursday evening to the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library.

The second annual Kansas Inclusion Day gathering attracted an audience — estimated by organizers at more than 100 people — characterized by an extraordinary mix of race, age and social background.

Elderly men dressed in suits and ties sat near teenagers wearing punk haircuts, combat fatigues and black leather jackets.

The diverse audience had a common goal — to celebrate the spirit of

the late Dr. Martin Luther King and work toward a unified society where people are judged by their character rather than such factors as their sex or the color of their skin.

Thursday's observance of Inclusion Day, which comes on the anniversary of King's assassination on April 4, 1968, was sponsored by Bias Busters of Kansas and the Kansas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Committee.

The event featured the presentation of a certificate of recognition from the state honoring Col. William E. Richards Sr. for his outstanding performance and exceptional contri-


butions to the state.

Richards — a veteran of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars — retired from the Army in 1970 after 27 years, then became an administrator for the state. He later retired as chief of income support and medical services for the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Thursday's ceremony also was marked by a moment of silence for an acquaintance of Richards, U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who died at age 54 Wednesday in the crash of a U.S. Air Force jet in Croatia.

# Press Release

To : All Media outlets

From:  C.E. "Sonny" Scroggins  
Bias Busters of Kansas

Subject: Kansas Human Relations Commission



## Press Conference

At 5-7 pm on March 20th, 1997 *Bias Busters of Kansas* will conduct a discussion in the War Room (220 south) of the State Capitol to discuss the **ineffectiveness** of the

### **Kansas Human Rights Commission**

BIAS BUSTERS OF KANSAS IS CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE KANSAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE TROY SCROGGINS AND THE JENKINS FAMILY. ANDRE JENKINS IS LEADING A ONE MAN PICKET AGAINST KHRC



For more information, contact C.E. "Sonny" Scroggins, 267-5381 or Beverly Dawson, 233-5100

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My name is Troy G. Scroggins. I am African American. A native Kansan. A retiree and I reside at 3341 Moundview Drive, Topeka, Kansas.

I thank you for this opportunity to share with you my views of Senate Bill #2444; a proposal to create a Commission on African American Affairs under state statute.

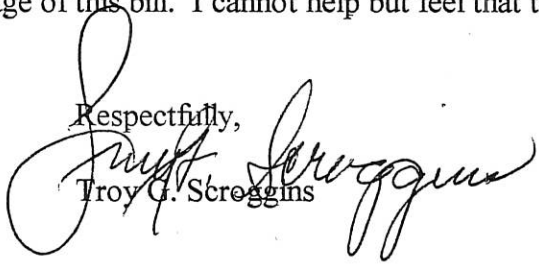
As an African American and a native Kansan, I cannot help but believe that a Commission on African American Affairs would serve a very useful purpose. Given the authority to serve as an oversight agency and a depository for information and data on social issues and concerns of the African American community in Kansas. There is a great need for an agency of state government to act as a conduit for the mutual exchange of communication on critical social issues that affect relationship between the minority African American community and the majority establishment of Kansas.

It is unfortunate that the institution of racism, bigotry and discrimination are still living realities in Kansas. African Americans are still oppressed by social practices and policies in both the private and public sectors of life, that relegates them to second class citizenry. An African American Affairs Commission too, can serve a vastly important function as an advocacy agency to articulate the concerns of the African American Community on issues of individual and collective concerns. Equally important, an African American Affairs Commission could best define the Afro-American agenda in Kansas, and speak pro-actively to it.

It should be understood by everyone concerned with this issue, that the African Americans in Kansas do not advocate preferential treatment by reason of race/culture. The ultimate goal of African Americans in Kansas is to achieve parity and equality of opportunities within the social, political and economic processes afforded all Kansans. Concomitant with these goals, the agency would be responsible for promoting greater racial harmony and unity among all the diverse racial and cultural groups in the state. The touchstone for the agency to carry out successfully these functions will be its inclusion in the political processes of the state.

I urge your support to the passage of this bill. I cannot help but feel that this is a win/win citation.

Respectfully,

  
Troy G. Scroggins

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm.  
Date: 3-19-97  
Attachment: # 7



1300 South Topeka Avenue Topeka, Kansas 66612 913-235-0262 Fax 913-235-3920

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT A. STONE  
Executive Director and Chief Counsel,  
Kansas Association of Public Employees (KAPE)

Before the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Wednesday March 19, 1997, 11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 254-E

**In support of HB 2444**

My name is Scott A. Stone and I am the Executive Director and Chief Counsel for the Kansas Association of Public Employees, commonly known as KAPE. Madam Chair and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to testify in support of HB 2444 which creates the Kansas Advisory Commission on African-American Affairs.

KAPE supports the plight of minorities in this state. One of the two largest minority groups in Kansas, the Hispanics, already has such a commission. Last year, this legislature overwhelmingly rejected the proposed abolishment of KACHA (The Kansas Advisory Commission on Hispanic Affairs). This year, you should recognize the largest minority group in this state with the creation of their own commission to focus on specific problems experienced by the African-American community. KAPE has numerous African-American members and stands for the protection of their rights, the furtherance of their issues and the redress of their particular problems. African-Americans have the highest



percentages of incarcerated individuals, illiteracy and unemployment and have some of the lowest rates of wages and life expectancy. The causes of and solutions to some of these issues are specifically what this proposed commission would address.

HB 2444 is not a new concept, rather it has been proposed each year for many years. The idea has usually been shot down with the argument that if another commission is created beyond KACHA, every minority group will want one. This argument should be rejected because at the very least, the two largest minority groups should have a voice. While there are many different minority groups in this state, the Hispanics and African-Americans have particular problems that could be better addressed through commissions with the expertise and background that are inherent in such a structure. The cost of HB 2444 is minimal and for such a small expenditure, great things can be done.

Last year, this bill died in the House. This year, the House passed this provision with no opponents testifying against the bill. I would urge the members of this committee to not only pass HB 2444 out favorably, but to actively support its passage on the Senate floor. It is time to recognize the diversity of the people of this state by recognizing that everyone cannot be painted with the same brush and particular groups should have vehicles to publicize and address their particular issues.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their time and consideration on this matter. I would be glad to respond to any questions you may have.



TESTIMONY

HB 2444

ELIAS L. GARCIA, CHAIRMAN  
KANSAS DEMOCRATIC HISPANIC CAUCUS

SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
HONORABLE SENATOR LANA OLEEN, CHAIR

HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, MY NAME IS ELIAS L. GARCIA, CHAIRMAN OF THE KANSAS HISPANIC CAUCUS. I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME BEFORE YOU **IN SUPPORT OF HB 2444**, A BILL ESTABLISHING A BLACK ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

INCLUSION HAS ALWAYS BEEN INTREGAL TO THE OVERALL SUCCESS OF GOVERNMENT AND CRITICAL IN ITS ABILITY TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF ITS CONSTITUENTS. THROUGHOUT THE YEARS WE HAVE SEEN GOVERNMENT EXERCISE ITS AUTHORITY AND TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION ON BEHALF OF GROUPS WHICH HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES LOCKED OUT OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS, VOTING SYSTEMS, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, ETC. GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS TAKEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF REMEDYING SOCIETAL PROBLEMS AND CIRCUMSTANCE, WHEREBY, NO GROUP FOUND THEMSELVES WITHOUT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND EQUAL ACCESS TO SOCIETY AND THEIR GOVERNMENT.

TODAY, THIS COMMITTEE IN CONCERT WITH TOTAL KANSAS LEGISLATURE, HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO, ONCE AGAIN, PROMOTE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND EQUAL ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT BY, YET ANOTHER GROUP THAT HAS, HISTORICALLY, FOUND THEMSELVES LOCKED OUT OF THE SYSTEM---THE KANSAS BLACK COMMUNITY. TODAY, THIS COMMITTEE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND A MESSAGE TO ALL KANSANS, ESPECIALLY BLACKS, THAT KANSAS WELCOMES ALL CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT AND THAT GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT THAT ENDEAVOR, NOT ONLY THROUGH RHETORIC BUT THROUGH A TANGIBLE INVESTMENT OF TIME AND RESOURCES.

THE KANSAS BLACK COMMUNITY HAS BEEN A PRODUCTIVE, PROACTIVE, AND PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE KANSAS POLITICAL LANDSCAPE THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THIS GREAT STATE. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BLACK ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN ASSURING THAT THEIR PAST CONTRIBUTIONS ARE INDEED ACKNOWLEDGED AND THEIR FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE VIEWED AS VITAL TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AT LARGE KANSAS COMMUNITY.

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO SUPPORT HB 2444 AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION IN THIS MATTER.

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm.  
Date: 3-19-97  
Attachment: # 9

STATE OF KANSAS



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DIVISION OF THE BUDGET

Room 152-E  
State Capitol Building  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504  
(913) 296-2436  
FAX (913) 296-0231

Bill Graves  
Governor

Gloria M. Timmer  
Director

February 21, 1997

The Honorable Kent Glasscock, Chairperson  
House Committee on Governmental Organization and Elections  
Statehouse, Room 183-W  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Glasscock:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2444 by Representatives R. Nichols, et al.

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2444 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2444 would establish an Advisory Commission on African-American Affairs, which would be advisory to the Secretary of Human Resources. The Commission would gather and disseminate information on problems concerning African-Americans, assist and cooperate with other state agencies to serve the needs of African-Americans, and propose new programs concerning African-Americans. The Commission would be required to meet at least four times a year and consist of seven members. Three members would be appointed by the Governor and the remaining four members would be appointed by the Legislature.

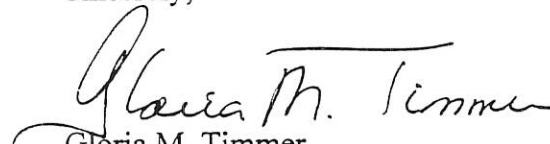
The Advisory Commission could appoint, subject to approval of the Secretary of Human Resources, an executive director. The executive director could appoint, with approval of the Advisory Committee and the Secretary of Human Resources, technical advisors and assistants to develop and assist local organizations and associations on African-American concerns.

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Estimated State Fiscal Impact				
	FY 1997 SGF	FY 1997 All Funds	FY 1998 SGF	FY 1998 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	\$172,031	\$172,031
FTE Pos.	--	--	--	3.0

The Department of Human Resources, based on the cost to operate the Advisory Committee on Hispanic Affairs, estimates \$172,031 in expenditures from the State General Fund to implement provisions of HB 2444 for FY 1998. The proposed funding would provide for a minimum of four annual meetings, 1.0 FTE position of executive director, 2.0 FTE positions of support staff, and temporary salaries. Because the African-American population is larger than the Hispanic population in Kansas, the Department of Human Resources states that an evaluation of first-year operations may determine that additional staff would be needed for the Commission. The expenditures would be in addition to those contained in *The FY 1998 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

  
Gloria M. Timmer  
Director of the Budget

cc: Marc Lowe, Department of Human Resources

## **Article 65.--ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS**

### **74-6501. Establishment; advisory to secretary of human resources.**

There is hereby created the advisory committee on Hispanic affairs hereinafter referred to as the "advisory committee." The advisory committee shall be advisory to the secretary of human resources.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, S. 1; L. 1976, ch. 370, S. 88; L. 1986, ch. 302, S. 3; July 1.

### **74-6501a. Official designation and name of committee.**

(a) On July 1, 1986, the Kansas advisory committee on Mexican American affairs shall be and hereby is officially designated as the Kansas advisory committee on Hispanic affairs.

(b) On and after July 1, 1986, whenever the Kansas advisory committee on Mexican American affairs or the executive director of the Kansas advisory committee on Mexican American affairs, or words of like effect, is referred to or designated by a statute, contract or other document, such reference or designation shall mean and apply to the Kansas advisory committee on Hispanic affairs and to the executive director of the Kansas advisory committee on Hispanic affairs.

(c) Nothing in this act shall be construed as abolishing the Kansas advisory committee on Mexican American affairs or the office of the executive director thereof, or as re-establishing the same.

History: L. 1986, ch. 302, S. 1; July 1.

### **74-6502. Advisory committee; composition; qualifications; appointment; terms; vacancies.**

The advisory committee shall consist of seven members. No more than four members shall be members of the same political party. Subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 1992 Supp. 75-4315c, each congressional district in the state of Kansas shall be represented on the advisory committee by at least one member who is a resident of the district at the time of appointment and the remainder shall represent the state at large. Advisory committee members shall be appointed by the governor. A person appointed to fill a vacancy which occurs prior to the expiration of a term shall be appointed for the unexpired term. Each member of the committee shall be appointed for a three-year term.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, S. 2; L. 1982, ch. 347, S. 44; L. 1992, ch. 262, S. 13; July 1.

### **74-6503. Same; chairman and secretary.**

The advisory committee shall elect one of its members as chairman and one as secretary to serve a one-year term.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, S. 3; July 1.

### **74-6504. Functions, powers and duties.**

The advisory committee shall have the following functions, powers and duties:

(a) Gather and disseminate information and conduct hearings, conferences and special studies on problems and programs concerning Hispanics;

(b) coordinate, assist and cooperate with the efforts of state departments and agencies to serve the needs of Hispanics especially in the area of culture, education, employment, health, housing, welfare and recreation;

(c) develop, coordinate and assist other public and private organizations with understanding the problems of Hispanics;

(d) develop, coordinate and assist other public and private organizations to provide services to Hispanics;

(e) propose new programs concerning Hispanics;

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- (f) evaluate existing programs and proposed legislation concerning Hispanics;
- (g) stimulate public awareness of the problems of Hispanics by conducting a program of public education;
- (h) conduct training programs for community leadership and service project staff;
- (i) accept contributions from any person to assist in the effectuation of this section and to seek and enlist the cooperation of private, charitable, religious, labor, civic and benevolent organizations for the purposes of this section;
- (j) solicit, receive and expend federal funds to effectuate the purposes of this act and enter into contracts and agreements with any federal agency for such purposes;
- (k) establish advisory committees on special subjects; and
- (l) cooperate with the state board of education in advising and assisting school districts, upon request, in conducting in-service training programs for bilingual education personnel.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, S. 4; L. 1979, ch. 220, S. 16; L. 1986, ch. 302, S. 4; July 1.

**74-6505. Same; meetings; quorum.**

The advisory committee shall meet at least four times a year. The chairman may call additional meetings. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, S. 5; July 1.

**74-6506. Same; compensation and allowances of members.**

Members of the advisory committee attending meetings of such committee shall be paid amounts provided in subsection (e) of K.S.A. 75-3223 and amendments thereto.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, S. 6; L. 1975, ch. 416, S. 18; July 1.

**74-6507. Executive director; qualifications.**

The executive director of the advisory committee shall be qualified by education and experience to assume the responsibilities of such office and be able to converse and write fluently in both the English and Spanish languages.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, S. 7; L. 1976, ch. 370, S. 89; July 1.

**74-6508. Same; administrative officer, duties.**

The executive director shall be the administrative officer of the advisory committee and shall serve the advisory committee by gathering information, disseminating findings of fact and other information, forwarding proposals and evaluations to the secretary of human resources, the governor, the legislature and various state agencies, carrying out public education programs, conducting hearings and conferences and performing other duties necessary for the proper operation of the advisory committee.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, S. 8; L. 1976, ch. 370, S. 90; July 1.

**74-6509. Technical advisors and assistants, appointment.**

The executive director of the advisory committee may appoint, subject to the approval of the advisory committee and the secretary of human resources, technical advisors and assistants to develop, assist and cooperate with local commissions on Hispanics.

History: L. 1974, ch. 208, S. 9; L. 1976, ch. 370, S. 91; L. 1985, ch. 292, S. 19; L. 1986, ch. 302, S. 5; July 1.

*Bilingual education*

**.2-9510. Technical advice and assistance.**

The state board, in cooperation with the advisory committee on Hispanic affairs and with other appropriate agencies and organizations, may provide any board, upon its request therefor, with technical advice and assistance in the establishment and operation of a program of bilingual education, including assistance in conducting in-service training programs for qualified teachers, and may make studies and gather and disseminate information relating to materials, resources, procedures, programs and qualified teachers which are or may become available to school districts for utilization in such programs of bilingual education.

History: L. 1979, ch. 220, S. 10; L. 1986, ch. 302, S. 2; L. 1987, ch. 278, S. 4; July 1.