

Executive Committee Report
Urban League of Portland
January 21, 1948 - 12:30 P. M.
Office: Mr. D. Robinson, President, Pacific Bldg.

Present were the following Board Members:

Mrs. Mary Duncan
Francis Kern
Clarence Ivey

David Robinson, Presiding
Edwin C. Berry, Executive Secretary

Mr. Enna called in his regrets. He had a scheduled speaking engagement which was meeting prior to the call of this meeting.

Mr. Robinson opened the meeting, and told the Executive Committee that this emergency meeting had been called in lieu of the regular January Board meeting, which was not held because of the illness of our Executive Secretary who was required to be out of the office for one month. He stated this meeting would be short. There were a few items requiring Executive Committee action immediately.

BUDGET

Mr. Kern, treasurer, presented the 1948 revision of the Urban League budget. He called attention to the fact that this budget was merely a downward revision of the budget which has been accepted and approved by our total board at the time of its presentation to the Community Chest. We requested from the Chest \$22,853.18. We were allowed \$17,000.00 - hence the necessary revision. The budget which you have before you is essentially the same as the budget upon which we operated in 1947 with a few minor changes. The budget anticipates a total income and expenditures of \$12,192.12. The income other than from Community Chest is based on our 1947 experience. The major changes in expenditures anticipate small salary increases for the Executive Secretary, and for one office secretary; a small increase in printing; the inclusion of the item for National Retirement Plan for employees; the item for fire insurance for office equipment; and small item for emergency relief.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE BUDGET WAS MADE BY MR. KERN. SECONDED BY MRS. DUNCAN. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEMBERSHIPS

Our President raised the question as to income of memberships in 1947. Mr. Berry replied that membership income amounted to a total of \$1,322.00, which was about \$700 short of the anticipated income of memberships dues. However, this amount of shrinkage was compensated for by income of other sources. We, therefore, will come out of the year about even. Mr. Robinson asked why the shrinkage in anticipated income for members. Mr. Berry stated that little work had been done on memberships. Further, the death of Mr. Lott and the subsequent months during which time we had no Industrial Secretary, routine duties took priority on staff time. He reported that our files indicate 600 Urban League members that have not paid their Urban League renewal fees. It was suggested that a good letter signed by our President asking renewal should be sent to all delinquent members. This letter should also ask each person who did not care to renew to write us giving his reason for disassociation with the Urban League program. A telephone committee should be set up for those persons who do not respond to our letter.

ANNUAL MEETING

It was unanimously agreed by the Executive Committee that the Urban League Annual Meeting should correspond with "I Am An American Day." This day occurs by proclamation of the President of the United States and the Governors of the several states. The date has not yet been set. Our President volunteered to secure date regarding the date.

The President appointed the entire Executive Committee to act as the Annual Meeting Committee for 1948.

Adjournment - 1:25 P. M.

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
Urban League of Portland
February 10, 1948

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a. m. by our President, David Robinson
2. Roll Call - Present were:

Mrs. Mary Duncan	Francis Kern
Mrs. Pollyanna Reed	Reverend C. M. Austin
Father L. O. Stone	Irving Enna
Charlie Morgan	David Robinson
DeNorval Unthank, M. D.	Mrs. Elliott Corbett (?)
Edwin C. Berry, Executive Secretary	

3. Minutes of the last were read and approved.

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting were read and ratified by the Board.

4. Mr. Robinson reported on Richland, Washington - Father Tobin, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Hill and Mr. Berry made the trip. This committee conferred with Atomic Energy Commission officials, General Electric officials, officials of subcontractors; Labor Union representatives and Negro workmen.

Mr. Robinson stated that discrimination and segregation was rampant in Richland proper and in the surrounding cities and villages. He said one of the most depressing discoveries of the entire trip was the exploitation of Negro job seekers by a Negro minister in Pasco who was charging me \$1.00 per night to sleep under the most sordid conditions. The men had to accept his terms for there was no other place to go. No hotel in Pasco will receive Negroes. Kennewick, another nearby village, will not permit a Negro to stay overnight.

The Atomic Energy Commission has an anti-discrimination hiring clause in all contracts which is being violated by all subcontractors.

The only real satisfactory conference we had was with the Business Agent of the Laborers Union which is about 70% Negro. He is a good honest forthright man.

Mr. Robinson reported seeing men he knew to be skilled workmen in the Laborers Hall applying for work as common because they were shut out elsewhere. He called particular attention to a young engineer for whom he had interceded to get an appointment at Bonneville. This man was let out in the Bonnevilled retrenchment program. This highly skilled and valuable man was awaiting assignment in the Laborer's Hall.

Hotel Accommodations - The government hotel clerk tried to segregate our Negro companions from white. We caught the effort and beat Jim Crow by shifting rooms to suit ourselves. There were two rooms in that hotel interracialy occupied that evening.

Mr. Robinson said our trip accomplished the following things:

1. Provided us with first hand authentic information.
2. Placed us in contact with key officials.
3. Served notice on authorities that interracial groups of citizens are interested and watchful of developments.
4. Gave hope to the Negro workmen that the Urban League was

- on the job in their behalf.
- 5. Opened the way for further negotiations.

After considerable discussion the following motion was made by Mr. Kern, seconded by Dr. Unthank. THAT THE NATIONAL URBAN BE REQUESTED TO TAKE ACTION IN THE RICHLAND-PASCO AREA AND THAT THE NATIONAL OFFICE SEND A MAN IN IF POSSIBLE TO DO AN ON THE SCENE JOB. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 5. Holladay School Situation - Father Stone reported that L. B. Stewart was behind this move to hoodwink Negro parents of children attending Holladay School into signing a petition for the reopening of Eliot School. Father Stone read the letter from the Urban League to these parents (letter attached). He then had further information to present relative to the nefarious activities of Mr. Stewart in Butte and Great Falls, Montana. Mr. Stewart closely followed the pattern he has established here.

Mr. Berry reported that the response to our letter has been overwhelming; that we have received 122 letters from a possible 154 parents and they are still coming. We have conferred with the Superintendent of Public Schools and one member of the School Board. Stewart's petition will be filed and Eliot will stay closed.

The Board concurred that this action was proper and directed the Executive Secretary to take any additional steps as the occasion should demand.

- 6. The Butler Garbage Service - Reverend Austin Reported on this matter. He reviewed the Butler case from its origin and referred to 2 Urban League communications on the subject (both attached). These communications point up how Butler has acquired the proper equipment, and how he secured city license, attempted to join the Union; how bribes have been offered, threats of violence to Butler and intimidation of his customers. Reverend Austin reported that the threats were such that he had accompanied Butler to the dump on several occasions to prevent foul play.

Mr. Berry augmented Reverend Austin's report.

MOTION BY REVEREND AUSTIN. SECONDED BY FATHER STONE THAT THE URBAN LEAGUE URGE FULL AND COMPLETE SUPPORT OF BUTLER IN HIS NEW ENDEAVOR. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 7. Wardell Henderson Case - Mr. Berry reported that he, in conference with the President, had taken action in the name of the Urban in behalf of Wardell Henderson. Wardell Henderson was convicted of murder and sentenced to die in the Gas Chamber. 11th hour statements by 3 of his jurors swore that race bias entered the jury deliberations. The Urban League along with the Oregon Prison Association, NAACP, AVC, ADA, and Federated Women's Club ask for a stay of execution until the Governor could study the new evidence.

MOTION BY MR. KERN. SECONDED BY MRS. CORBETT (?) THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THIS ACTION. *Mrs. Corbett seconded.*

- 8. F. E. P. C. - Mr. Berry reported that the Committee has been inactive since the close of the last legislature. He said since jobs remain our number one problem he felt the Committee should be reactivated and efforts should be made to get a City Ordinance for Fair Employment Practices as well as an attempt made to strengthen the existing State Law.

Mr. Robinson appointed Mr. Enna and Mr. Berry as a committee to contact the F. E. P. C. Chairman and arrange with him for immediate reactivation of F. E. P. C.

Mr. Robinson spoke of the present F. E. P. Law. He said it was weak, but a great deal better than nothing. The last paragraph relates to education in Public schools to eradicate prejudice. He said he felt that nothing had been done to accomplish this purpose. Mr. Robinson promised to contact the State Superintendent of Public Schools and check this matter with him.

Mr. Robinson spoke of his efforts to have discriminatory questions related to race and religion removed for admission blanks for State Schools. He mentioned that other matters related to discrimination in state institutions need our attention in the near future.

Adjournment - 12:05

1. Report of Nominating Committee

Mr. Brewster reported that the nominating Committee had made nominations for the members to the Board of Directors. He did not understand that the committee was also charged with the responsibility of nominating officers for the Board. Consequently it had not been done. Mr. Brewster recommended that the present officers serve out this term of office.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Brewster made the following motion;

THAT OUR PRESENT OFFICERS SHALL SERVE OUT THIS TERM UNTIL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE URBAN LEAGUE.

It was seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Passed unanimously.

2. Report of Executive Secretary

Mr. Berry presented a comprehensive report which covered the following points:

1. Vanport flood, its effects of race relations; quality of handling of the flood victims, living quarters, social effects and Red Cross work. He pointed out that the Red Cross had sought and used Urban League for advice on all inter-racial situations and that there was no segregation or discrimination apparent in the handling of the flood victims.
2. Employment Picture
3. General information.

3. Treasurer's Report: (Entire report attached)

Mr. Kern reported our budget request to Community Chest for 1949 was \$24,689.64. We have been allocated \$23,000.00. It is anticipated that we will receive an additional \$2500 in memberships and \$600 in gifts for 1949. This will bring our total operating budget to \$26,000.00

Mr. Kern continued, in order to bring our budget in to balance, we will need to affect certain reductions. He suggested the following budget reductions and changes.

1. Eliminated added secretarial worker, but include \$800.00 for added secretarial help.
2. Reduce carfare by workers by \$25.00.
3. Reduce travel account by \$50.00
4. Reduce Materials for training \$50.00
5. Reduce Volunteer worker's expence \$50.00
6. Reduce Publicity and Promotion \$100.00
7. Reduce National dues \$122.64
8. New Equipment \$500.00
(Include new item)
Office renovation \$200.00

These adjustments will balance our budget.

Mr. Kern pointed out that our first budget in 1945 was \$8,500. Our 1949 budget, in excess of \$26,000, is some indication of our growth and expansion.

November 11, 1948 - continued

Mr. Kern further pointed out that our present income from sources other than the Community Chest is running a little behind schedule.

Income from memberships to date, is \$1,646.52, against a budgeted \$2,000. Gifts have produced \$505.10 and we have budgeted \$800.00.

Mr. Kern's report was accepted on motion from Mr. Plummer, second by Mrs. Corbett. Motion passed.

New Business

The Executive Secretary recommended that we discontinue our ^{domestic} placement service. He stated that the need for this program has passed. We have now more orders for domestic workers than we can fill. This has been true for several months. The need to sell Negro domestic workers has passed and we should turn the full force of our Industrial program into fields of endeavor where there is still resistance to the use of Negro workers.

After considerable discussion, it was the consensus of the Board of Directors that action should be deferred; the Executive should give the matter further study and report at a subsequent meeting.

Correspondence

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Ben Hazen, President of the Community Chest, commending the Urban League on its November Newsletter related to the Community Chest.

Greenville Money

Mr. Robinson reported on the work of a committee which he chairs, and which was appointed by the Governor to dispense a sum of money among needy Vanport flood victims. Mr. Robinson defined the limitations of the committee and asked the Board for suggestions as to its use.

F.E.P.C.

Mr. Robinson asked for a discussion on F.E.P.C. and Civil Rights. This discussion resulted in the following action.

1. The Urban League shall work hard for F.E.P.C. which simply embodies into law the principles for which we work daily.
2. The Executive Secretary was directed to take the necessary steps to reactivate this F.E.P. Committee immediately.
3. That all efforts be expended toward F.E.P. at this time and that we shall not urge a Civil Rights Bill now. The preponderance of those present felt that it would be wise to get over one big hurdle at the time.

Nor formal action was taken on these points. However, there was substantial agreement.

The meeting was adjourned.

Urban League of Portland - Board Meeting
Thursday, November 11, 1948

*Myrtle
 Held for
 1949 Budget*

NOTES FOR TREASURER

1. Our budget request from Community Chest for 1949 was \$21,689.64.
2. Read the letter from Ralph Reed.
3. Campaign was successful. Therefore we will get the \$6000 increase. However, we will have to trim our original estimate by \$1,689.64.
4. Suggestions Savings

1. Eliminate added secretarial worker.	
2. Include in budget \$800 for added secretarial service	\$1000.
3. Reduce carfare by workers.	\$ 25.
4. Reduce travel	\$ 50.
5. Reduce materials for training.	\$ 50.
6. Volunteer workers expense	\$ 50.
7. Publicity and promotion	\$ 100.
8. National dues - approximately	\$ 122.64
9. New equipment	\$ 500.
	\$1,897.64
	1,689.64
	\$ 208.00
Include new item -- office renovation	\$ 208.00

This will make our total budget for 1949 - if income from sources other than Chest stands up - \$27,300.

Interesting comparative, note the first budget allocated the Urban League in 1945 was \$8,500.

Note our present budget --

We are presently running about \$500 behind schedule:

	<u>To Date</u>	<u>Budget/ed</u>
Income from Memberships	\$1,646.52	\$2000.00
Gifts	505.10	800.00

SPECIAL MEETING
Board of Directors - Urban League of Portland
November 19, 1948

Mr. David Robinson, presiding

Present were the following Board Members:

William Brewster, Jr.	Ulysses G. Plummer
James Hamilton	Dr. Robert Joyner
Don Green	Clarence Ivey
Mrs. Mary M. Duncan	Mark Smith
Dr. Will C. Davis	David Robinson
Edwin C. Berry, Executive Secretary	

1. The meeting was especially called to consider the Washington High School incident and the OREGONIAN Editorial dealing with it.
2. Mr. Robinson opened the meeting. He said that he was critical of the method used in handling the situation and felt that we had brought adverse criticism on ourselves unnecessarily. Mr. Robinson said that he received several calls criticizing the action. Mrs. Corbett had called on him yesterday to express her dissatisfaction. Mrs. Corbett reported that she was dissatisfied and several other persons had spoken to her and shared her view point. Mr. Robinson also reported that he had two other calls of protest.

Mr. Hamilton stated that it is true that there is criticism, but there is also commendation in the community. He stated that most of the criticism came from the OREGONIAN Editorial, which was unfair, slanted and left out salient portions of the memorandum. Mr. Hamilton said the thing he resented most about the editorial was the leaving out of the first sentence of principal Smith's explanation - the first sentence is the key to the objectionable quality of the apology.

There followed an extended discussion of the situation with all present participating. Consensus of the discussion:

1. The incident was unfortunate.
2. Action should have been taken.
3. Executive Secretary should have taken an intermediary step before issuing the memorandum. That step should have been in the nature of a discussion with School Administration.
4. Where do we go from here.
5. Vote of confidence in Executive Secretary.

The Board concurred that the following action should be taken:

1. Appointment of a committee to call on OREGONIAN with the request that space be given for a statement clarifying Urban League point of view.
2. Same committee draft statement
3. Continue to work with Schools.

The following committee was appointed: Mr. Green, Mr. Berry, Mr. Hamilton, Chairman.

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Mr. Robinson also reported on the dall from one member who offered his resignation and a call from another person, highly respected in the community, who called to protest.

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Mr. Brewster - I feel action should have been taken. I feel it is unfortunate that Mr. Berry wrote instead of stating it verbally. There is a warmth about his speech which is not apparent in this letter to Mr. Smith. It could easily be misinterpreted.

Dr. Joyner - Well, this thing has happened. The point is what shall we do about it? This type of thing must stop in our schools.

Mr. Smith - We cannot hamstring our Executive to run to us with everything. I feel his action was entirely justified and believe he should be free to proceed and be supported.

Dr. Davis - The editorial was so snide and unfair. We must answer it, iff we can obtain space.

Mr. Ivey - Some white people - even our good friends do not realize the depth of the meaning of the use and term "nigger" has for Negroes. Mr. Berry has explained it in the memorandum exactly as I would if I could express myself in that way. We have got to fight this thing - especially when it injures little children - that is what we are set up for. That is my position, and I endorse the action of our Secretary.

Mr. Green - It was too mild if anything. This sort of thing makes me boil. I admire Mr. Berry's restraint. I think we can get space to make our position clear.

Mr. Plummer - I concur with all that has been said. Now what is our next step?

Mr. Berry was asked for his recommendation.

Mr. Berry stated that he had not intended saying anything because in a sense he was on trial. All members present interrupted him with protest at this point stating that was not true.

Mr. Berry continued, he recommended the following steps:

1. The appointment of a committee to call on the Oregonian and ask for ~~the~~ space for a statement from the Urban League which will clarify the matter.
2. Same committee form a letter for the Press.
3. Continue to work with School and Board.

These suggestions were accepted by consensus.

Mr. Robinson appointed the following committee:

Mr. Hamilton, Chairman, Mr. Green and the Executive Secretary.

The Committee was instructed to obtain an appointment with the Oregonian at the earliest date to strike while the incident is still fresh.

Adjournment.