

A Year Later

Madison Negroes Still Face Entrapping Circle

By SHARON COADY  
(State Journal Staff Writer)

One year after the equal opportunities ordinance was passed, Madison Negroes still face the entrapping circle of disadvantaged homes, poor education, few employment opportunities, and inadequate housing, but the legal obstacles are disappearing.

John McGrath, chairman of the equal opportunities commission, praised the community for widely accepting the ordinance.

**Impossible To Enforce**  
"The principle force of any legislative act is that it represents a consensus of public morality," he said.

Had the community not obeyed the law, it would have been impossible to enforce, he said.

The ordinance offered moral reinforcement for many people who agreed with its philosophy but submitted to social pressure to practice discrimination, he said.

"In effect, it got them off the hook," he said. "Now they can point to the law to back them up."

McGrath said he was encouraged by public reaction to the ordinance and the civil rights movement in general but cautioned that "this is not a revolution."

**Circle Remains**  
"This is something we have inherited from many generations of discrimination," he said.

Despite legal triumphs, the circle remains. The Negro cannot get a good education because his home life discourages study. He cannot get a good job because of his poor education. He cannot get better housing because of his poor environment.

"There's no way to break the circle except at any point you possibly can," McGrath said.

In education, Madison offers excellent facilities to Negroes, yet the city system cannot compensate for no encouragement at home, he said.

**Full Advantage**  
Studies show that even special tutoring in later grades cannot overcome early lack of exposure to magazines, books, and good music at home, he said.

Students from such disadvantaged homes cannot take full advantage of the numerous formal educational opportunities Madison offers, he said.

A census sponsored by the

Reporter Discusses Subject

Just a little more than two years ago, Madison was embroiled in one of its periodic "great debates."

The subject was a good one — whether the city should put on its ordinance books a civil rights (equal opportunities) ordinance . . . and what should be part of such an ordinance.

The ordinance passed just before Christmas, 1963, and the city's equal opportunities commission began work with a flourish.

Now, a year later, how has that ordinance worked? How has the Negro fared?

Reporter Sharon Coady discussed the subject with the chairman of the commission. Here is her report.



JOHN MCGRATH

Friends of the Urban League indicate that the high school dropout rate is much higher among Madison Negroes and that less than 175 Negroes have entered high school here in the past 10 years, he said.

A University of Wisconsin census last spring showed only 90 American Negroes enrolled — and only one from Madison, he said.

In employment, Madison offers numerous opportunities to the city's 2,000 Negroes, but they cannot take advantage of most, McGrath said.

**Modify Standards**  
"Employers sincerely are interested not in just hiring a Negro to sit by the door but in genuinely integrating their workforce from top to bottom," he said.

"Many are prepared to modify standards and give the Negro on-the-job training if he shows intelligence and aptitude but perhaps lack of experience because of

previous discrimination," McGrath said.

Although such "so-called preferential treatment" may affect hiring, a generation of it is needed to equalize job opportunities, and both the Negro and his employer expect rating on performance alone after employment, he said.

Despite such openings, Negroes cannot take all the jobs because they lack training. A century of no opportunities have kept men from studying business administration and women from attending secretarial schools, he said.

**Economic Problem**  
The Friends of the Urban League hope to encourage young Negroes to train for such jobs, but it is difficult to convince them and their parents that jobs will be available, he said.

In housing, the Madison Negro's main problem is economic, he said.

Housing is generally available on a racial basis, by law and by public acceptance, but low salaries keep Negroes in poorer neighborhoods, he said.

McGrath commended Madison realtors, main opponents to the equal opportunities ordinance, for their support after its passage.

Housing complaints to the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) dropped last year to less than previously received in one month, he said.

**What's Ahead?**  
Thus, despite good schools, job opportunities, and available housing, the depressing circle keeps the Negro in the old patterns. What is ahead in 1965?

"We must push in all areas to achieve our goals. You have to fight on all fronts at once," McGrath said.

The Friends of the Urban League hope the high school survey will justify formation of an Urban League, a professional social work agency.

McGrath is conducting his own survey of university Negroes to acquaint them with numerous scholarships designated for them.

**Educational Work**  
The South Side Neighborhood center will continue its tutoring program using university students to aid disadvantaged youngsters.

The equal opportunities commission will continue its educational work and its investigations of alleged discrimination.

"This really involves bringing the Negro into the mainstream. Until the white majority is willing to accept Negroes, it cannot expect Negroes to perform in a manner that is considered the American norm," McGrath said.



Defendant and Lawyer Awaited Judge William D. Byrne's Decision in Small Claims Court

636 Cases Last Year

'Wisdom of Solomon' Needed Often in Small Claims Court

By KAY WITT  
(State Journal Staff Writer)

A woman sued for damages to her wig when it was cleaned at a beauty shop.

An artist demanded payment for signs he had painted. A farmer claimed the milking machine he purchased didn't work properly.

These were among the more than 600 cases heard last year by Judge William D. Byrne in Small Claims Court, Branch 5 of Dane County Court.

Small Claims Court is for the person who wants to recover a relatively small amount of money with a minimum of time and expense.

**Maximum of \$500**  
The maximum amount that can be sued for in Small Claims Court is \$500. There is no minimum.

"Someone once sued for \$3," Byrne said. "I think that was a matter of principal to the plaintiff, since it cost \$3.50 to take the case to court."

It often takes the wisdom of Solomon to make a fair decision in a case involving damages. Often, as in the cases of the wig and the milking machine, expert witnesses are called to testify about the amount of damage incurred.

**Variety of Exhibits**  
But the case of the unpaid artist, the decision was easy. "Even I could tell it was horrible artwork," Byrne said.

"We really get a variety of exhibits in this court," he said. "We've had everything from library books to frozen meat entered as exhibits."

About once every two years the

city sues for payment of an overdue book.

"A girl was sued for overdue Little Time," Byrne said. "Talk about appropriate evidence!"

**Broken Romances**  
The meat was on exhibit when a Jewish family claimed the food plan they had joined provided them with "Kosher-style" meat instead of the kosher meat the contract had promised.

Broken romances sometimes create cases for Small Claims Court. A young man was sued for payment for Christmas cards imprinted with "Mr. and Mrs. John Smith" which had been ordered by his fiancée shortly before the engagement was broken.

A bridegroom was sued for payment of wedding pictures ordered by the bride's mother. After the marriage was annulled, the mother-in-law moved out of the state, and the photographer tried to collect the money from the luckless groom.

**Wife Not Much Help**  
A not-too-devoted wife wasn't much help to her husband, who was suing for damages done by a punch in the mouth. The resulting wound needed five stitches to close.

The wife testified she walked into the room where the fight took place and saw her husband lying on the floor, bleeding from the mouth. "I didn't pay much attention, though, because he bleeds easy anyway," she said.

About half the cases in Small Claims Court are collection cases, according to Byrne. These include a business or loan agency trying to collect from a customer, and a landlord suing a tenant for unpaid rent.

**Decides for Plaintiff**  
In most cases, the court decides in favor of the plaintiff.

Social Security

Benefit Boost of 7 Per Cent Is Proposed

By SYDNEY S. MILLER  
(Social Security Manager)

Among the advisory council's recommendations for improving the Social Security system is one dealing with an increase in benefits.

The first of these is the one which provides for an across-the-board increase of 7 per cent.

This would help offset the increase in the cost of living which has taken place since 1958, when the last general increase was provided.

Living Cost Rises

But while the cost of living has increased, so have wages. This change in the wage level last was recognized by a change in the law in 1954.

Before explaining the council's recommendations in this respect, we want to point out that the benefit formula in the law has always been weighted in favor of the low paid worker.

Let's give an illustration. In 1954 Mr. Jones averaged \$110 per month in wages. His monthly benefit under present law would be computed at \$65, or about 59 per cent of his average earnings.

The council believes in effect that the \$110 wage in 1954 would now more likely be about \$155 and that, therefore, if Mr. Jones were retiring today his benefit should also be weighted comparable to the amount in 1954.

\$74 Per Month

Under present law, Mr. Jones with a \$155 average wage would receive \$74 per month, still only 47 per cent of his average wage.

Under the formula recommended by the council, he would receive \$91 per month; about 59 per cent of his average earnings, thus approximately restoring the balance that existed in 1954.

Now that we have explained how the low wage earner would be benefited by the council's recommendations, let us see the effect upon the worker with maximum earnings.

Benefit of \$186

Taking into account all three recommendations (the 7 per cent increase in all levels of benefits, the increase in the benefit formula and the increase in the wage base), here is how a person with maximum earnings would fare.

Once the proposed \$7,200 contribution and benefit base was fully effective, a worker could

RUSSIAN TOURISTS INCREASE

MOSCOW (AP)—The volume of foreign tourists in the Soviet Union has doubled in the past nine years, says the Foreign Tourist Administration. An article in Izvestia Wednesday said a million tourists visited in 1964, an increase of 7 per cent over 1963.

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Keith Rogers To Get Eagle Scout Rank

Keith Rogers, a member of Boy Scout Troop 103, will receive the rank of Eagle Scout Monday night at Westwood Christian Church, 645 Segoe rd.

The award is the first to be earned by a member of this troop since it was founded in 1961.

Stuart Struck, finance chairman of the Four Lakes Council, will present the award.

Keith is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rogers, 4910 Woodburn dr. His father is his scoutmaster.

In addition to the Eagle award, four boys in the troop will be advanced to the rank of Star Scout, one to first class, and two to second class in Monday night's court of honor.

POSTAL SERVICE SLATED

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal and Red China have agreed to start postal service between Katmandu and Lhasa, capital of Communist-held Tibet.

Qualified Support Given Drug Controls

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The American Medical Assn. (AMA) gave a qualified endorsement Thursday to a move to tighten federal control over "pep pills" and "goofballs," drugs which have triggered a growing crime problem.

In a statement prepared for the House Commerce committee, Dr. Henry Brill of the AMA's committee on alcoholism and addiction said his group was especially concerned about illegal use of the drugs by youths.

The committee is conducting hearings on legislation designed to tighten controls on amphetamine "pep pills." The drugs have become popular with thrill-seeking teen-agers and truck drivers who need a stimulant to stay awake on long-distance runs.

Introduced by Committee Chairman Oren Harris (D-Ark.), the bill also would cover "goofballs," or barbiturate drugs that juveniles have been taking for their depressant effect.

Brill said that the legislation should be limited only to the two categories of drugs.

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