

Many Letters Support Equal Opportunity Ordinance

Philadelphia Area Lesson For Madison

1341 Spring Ct., Madison, Dec. 7.—Those in Madison who watched last Monday evening (Dec. 2) on Channel 21 (WHA) the excellent but terrifying program "Confronted," may be interested in the follow-up (reported in the New York Times, Dec. 2) of Horace Baker's case which was discussed, among others, on this program.

The 26-year-old laboratory technician, a Negro, who had moved three months ago, with his wife and 3-year-old daughter, into the previously all-white Delmar Village section in the Philadelphia area, has broken down under the intolerable strain of the "conspiracy of harassment and terrorism" inflicted on the Baker family by their neighbors. On Nov. 30 he was admitted at the Haverford State Hospital, a mental institution.

The Bakers were greeted on arrival at their new home by a crowd of jeering and stone-throwing members of the community. The demonstrators then vandalized their home causing damage of over \$2,000, before 150 state policemen restored order. From then on, the neighborhood never relented in acts of cruelty and vandalism against the Negro family, threatening even the safety of their small daughter.

The worst aspect of the case, however, is perhaps the fact that the local authorities made common cause with the tormentors, subjecting the Bakers to all kinds of legal harassments. On Oct. 27, for instance, when Mr. Baker was cleaning his car of red paint splattered on it by vandals, a local policeman gave him a ticket for "parking too far from the curb"; and on Nov. 16, he incurred a summons for violating a borough ordinance by calling in a Philadelphia plumber after local plumbers refused to repair a water heater damaged in the rioting.

This case is quite pertinent these days in our Madison community, as the city is faced with a vote on the Equal Opportunity Ordinance, because it shows what may happen when people, forgetting centuries of Christian teachings, put property rights before human rights. And only a few days ago, here in Madison, the superiority of property rights over

all considerations of human rights, justice and equality was brazenly proclaimed by a huge realtors' ad.

In an attempt to defeat the proposed Equal Opportunity Ordinance, this so-called "Bill of Rights" of property owners did not only mislead the people of Madison with regard to the provisions of the proposed Ordinance—making them believe that the measure would deprive them of all their rights when all it does actually is extend these rights to all members of the human family—but it also implies that real estate property rights are more sacred and absolute than any other rights, and may be used and abused without restrictions.

Such a concept, besides being in flagrant contradiction of the real Bill of Rights and to the law of the land, unavoidably leads, as it did in Delmar Village, to the ruthless violation of the most elementary principles of human decency, encouraging man's inhumanity to his fellow-men.

The Equal Opportunity Ordinance is actively supported by most civic organizations and the religious leaders of all faiths in our community. Mayor Reynolds has just come out strongly in favor of its passage. Are we in Madison going to forfeit our claim that this country stands for democracy, freedom and justice for all, and vote down the proposed ordinance, the first significant measure to remedy the existing evils of discrimination at least in our community, just in order to follow a false "Property Owners Bill of Rights" self-proclaimed by a group of real estate dealers?—Angela Sanchez-Barbudo.

Free Movement Right for Negroes

1125 Emerald St., Madison, Dec. 8.—If members of minority groups, despite their education which has insisted that all men are "created equal" and that America is the "land of opportunity," cannot get decent housing or jobs commensurate with their abilities, what is to prevent them from remaining second-class citizens? If a college-educated Negro from a good family and high income bracket cannot purchase a home in a neighborhood which houses whites of similar background, how can a less-edu-

cated Negro hope to advance from the conditions which perpetuate his inferior status?

The growth of suburbs all over the United States represents the growth in wealth and education of minority or national group urban dwellers. As each national group has been able to participate in entrepreneurial and white collar occupations, it has moved out of the overcrowded cities into the more congenial suburban air where its gains in wealth, education, and status are allowed and encouraged to flourish. But this process has been thwarted for the Negro. He has been denied jobs which might advance him economically and has been prevented from purchasing homes in areas offering good educational opportunities.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Negroes drop out of schools in large numbers for increased education has not brought them improved economic conditions, rights, or status. The large crime rate among minority groups in New York and Chicago, for example, is directly related to the great frustrations of living in pressure-cooker conditions which offer absolutely no hope for the future.

Even in our own Madison there are not a few Negroes that leave school early. Guidance counseling and cries from educators and civic-minded individuals are not going to prevent this for the schools that tell all children that our democratic system insures equality before the law and in opportunity, in effect, are lying to the Negroes. Negroes cannot advance economically or live where they wish. Democracy is for whites, in practice. Many Negroes give up rather than continue with this hypocrisy.

A first step in countering defeatism among Negroes is to allow them the same freedom of movement which we whites demand for ourselves, not as a gift but as a right. Madison can make a major advance in this direction by passing the Fair Housing Bill. Let us hope that aldermen will judge individuals on their merits rather than according to the wishes of the Madison Board of Realtors, who have rendered, like the Queen of Hearts in Alice in Wonderland, "Sentence first, verdict afterwards."—Alice J. Twombly, Robert C. Twombly.

Good Business to End Segregation

14017 Madison Crescent, Madison, Dec. 8.—Having lived both in the North and the South, I was interested in a recent newspaper article telling of a group of businessmen in Nashville who had feared and opposed desegregation. One of them was quoted as saying, "We figured we could write off half a million dollars if we desegregated. The biggest surprise I ever had was the result. We found out that we had been talking about something we didn't know anything about."

The article went on to say, "Others, too, discovered that they did not suffer financial losses by desegregating, as they had expected."

Now that even Southern businessmen are learning that desegregation is good for business, it certainly is disillusioning to see some of the Madison realtors spending a great deal of money to oppose progress and equal opportunity. It is even more disillusioning to see the hypocritical way in which they tried to hide their undemocratic attitudes behind the Bill of Rights. The truth is that no American citizen has the right to discriminate against another citizen because of his race.

Both for humanitarian and business reasons, the Equal Opportunities Ordinance, prepared by the city attorney and endorsed by the mayor, needs and deserves the support of the entire Madison community.—Robert J. Trobaugh.

Copy of Letter To Ald. Brown

1215 Forest St., Madison, Dec. 8.—(Open letter to Ald. Ethel Brown, 10th Ward)—When you cut through the verbiage of the Board of Realtors' full page ad in opposition to the proposed Equal Opportunities Ordinance, their position boils down to this: If whites want to discriminate against Negroes in Madison housing, they have a perfect right to do so—owning property gives them this right. Although they stoutly defend this "right" to discriminate, they recognize that this is unfair to Negro families, and since they have a "true desire to better racial relations," the Madison Board of Realtors charitably offers to help these second class citizens. Our democratic form of government is

based on majority rule with strong guarantees for minorities against the abuse of the power of the majority. In housing the white majority has certainly abused its power of property ownership to the great damage of minority families. If the rights of minority citizens to attain equal access to housing is to be safeguarded from the unthinking tyranny of the white majority, legislation is essential.

The ordinance which the Realtors oppose but do not discuss explicitly takes only one "right" away from the property owner, and that is the "right" to discriminate on the basis of race, creed or national origin. Rights of property owners to select tenants or purchasers on any other grounds are in no way affected.

Surely minority families in Madison deserve better protection for their rights to equal access to the housing market than can be obtained by appealing to the Realtors for help. If all this problem requires for solution is a little help from the Realtors, why hasn't it been solved long ago?

The Realtors seem to think that the "right" to discriminate is terribly important to white property owners. Such attitudes which trace back to the days of slavery happily are being outgrown by most people except evidently the Realtors.

Few people would accuse the Realtors of being more prejudiced than other people but, because of their key role in housing, the practice of discrimination by them is of crucial importance. Since the Realtors champion the "right" to discriminate and indicate their willingness actually to do the dirty work for the prejudiced owner, it is certainly clear that we need an ordinance. Clearly this problem will not solve itself! We cannot avoid being a little suspicious when the Realtors suddenly and in the face of a proposed ordinance offer to help Negro families exercise rights that the Realtors think that they don't have—namely to buy or rent property where they can fairly meet standards of finance and conduct that are applied equally to all.

Hopefully the citizens of Madison and their aldermen will have a keener sense of fair play and of the vital importance

of reducing democratic principles to working reality than the Realtors' board of directors. Indeed it is quite clear that these seven men do not even reflect accurately the positions of all of their own members.

It is time that we take the necessary step of passing this ordinance in order to make Madison an even better place to live for all its citizens—many white families don't like to live in segregated neighborhoods any better than Negro families do. Better racial relations will come to Madison only when all groups get to know, understand, and respect each other, and that can't happen if residential segregation continues its increase in our community.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Holt.

Challenges Logic of Realtors' Cause

1433 Woodside Ter., Madison, Dec. 6.—Last night on a local television station a Madison realtor commented on the Equal Opportunities Ordinance.

I am personally acquainted with Mr. Ditch and respect him as an honest businessman and conscientious citizen. I do however, question the lucidity of his reasoning on the EOO. His closing statement made the point that the Madison Board of Realtors opposed the ordinance because legislation would do nothing to end discrimination.

If the board really believes this is a meaningless bill why did they spend over \$500 on an ad to oppose it?

This legislation could open the market to many new buyers. This sounds like good business; why should the board take such a reactionary stand?—Bridget A. Timm.

Supports Equal Opportunities

14705 Lafayette Dr., Madison, Dec. 5.—I would like to express support for the Equal Opportunities Ordinance now under consideration by the City Council.

It is important that we permit individuals to compete in an open market for homes, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin or national ancestry.

The ordinance will implement the task of education, persuasion, and conciliation of the Equal Opportunities Commission.—Mrs. Roy G. Mita.

A True Memorial To John F. Kennedy

(Madison, Nov. 27)—On the afternoon of Nov. 22, 1963, a piece of Americana fell prey to a sniper's bullet. John Fitzgerald Kennedy left behind himself a life upon which every schoolgirl and boy in America will model their lives. John Kennedy was truly a great man. He strove to help keep this nation great and defended the principles for which it stands. He prevented the encroachment of our rights by our enemies. He strove to make this world a world of peace where men could think and act freely.

John Kennedy was truly a dedicated American. He set his motto as: "Ask not what your country can do for you; but what you can do for your country." He lived by and followed his motto. He was an unselfish man who was guided by the love of his country and it took a bullet to stop him, but he did not stop, for his policies will live on forever in the minds of Americans and help to guide their thoughts in the future.

"If this man was so great, why was he killed?" you might ask. Why? Find the answer to the question. "Why are great men never appreciated in their own time?" and you will find the answer.

We cannot bring John F. Kennedy back, but we can continue on in his memory, striving to keep this country he loved so much a great nation. In doing so we will be creating a memorial for him far greater than any that could ever be built.—Tom Steinberg, Richard Handrow.

The Capital Times

WILLIAM T. EVJUE, Editor and Publisher
GEORGE R. STEPHENSON, Executive Editor
HARRY D. SAGE, Associate Editor
D. D. DUNN, Managing Editor
CEDRIC PARKER, City Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Capital Times six days a week anywhere in Dane County, or on Express RFD, 40¢ per week. Beyond Dane County, in Wisconsin, six days per week by carrier 45¢ per week. Beyond Dane County, in Wisconsin by mail, beyond carrier delivery limits six days per week, 1 year \$12.00, 6 months \$6.50. By mail outside the State of Wisconsin in the United States six days per week \$20.00 per year. The Capital Times daily for the Sunday Wisconsin State Journal by carrier, 35¢ per week, payable to the carrier. (SOLD IN COMBINATION WITH THE SUNDAY WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL) The Capital Times answers in Dane County, and includes breakfast RFD, six days per week, plus the Sunday delivery of the Wisconsin State Journal, 35¢ per week. Beyond Dane County by mail either in RFD areas served by special Sunday postmen, or in towns and villages beyond carrier delivery limits six days per week, 25¢ daily and 15¢ Sunday. By mail outside the State of Wisconsin in the United States, daily plus the Sunday Wisconsin State Journal, \$12.00 per year. Published every afternoon except Sunday and Christmas by Madison Newspapers, Inc. Editorial direction by The Capital Times Company.

Madison 3, Wis. December 10, 1963

Feed the Birds!

If you want to keep some bright, cheerful visitors around your home to provide some pleasant hours during the winter months, put out some bird feeders. Stock them with seeds, suet, bacon fat, bread crusts or even table scraps. If you help them to get through the winter they'll help you to enjoy it.

THE WORLD is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion.—THOMAS PAINE.

(Continued from Page 1)

for highway purposes?

THIS table of figures suggests that instead of imposing new taxes and adding to the debt burden through another dummy corporation, the Legislature should be giving serious consideration to using some of the highway surplus for other state expenditures and give the taxpayers some relief.

The fact is that this idea of balancing the state budget by dipping into the segregated highway funds surplus was given favorable consideration last June by the Governor's office. Sen. Lynn Stalbaum, Racine Democrat, was prepared to introduce such a proposal.

But, the powerful highway lobby, which is behind the new road building program side-tracked that proposal and instead the people got the \$2 fee for filing income tax returns.

WHAT is all this urgency about borrowing more money and imposing more taxes for roads? Is Wisconsin really so hard up for good roads?

In the last seven years the state has been spending at a rate of \$88 million annually while maintaining a fund balance of almost \$100 million. The seven year total is

\$620,000,000

This is more than half of the entire highway expenditure in Wisconsin for the past 43 years!

FORMER Gov. Nelson pointed out just about a year ago in an address on highways that "Wisconsin is now well ahead of the national average of interstate mileage completed."

Gov. Nelson noted that in the

past decade the population of Wisconsin had increased

18%

car registration increased

34%

travel vehicle miles increased

50%

but the state highway budget had increased

110%

MONDAY The Capital Times pointed out that state debt through dummy corporation borrowing has reached a record

\$157,284,539

It is not known now how much will be borrowed for the program the Governor is proposing. It has been estimated that it could go as high as

\$400,000,000

This would be bringing state debt to

\$557,000,000

The Wisconsin Petroleum Council has produced investment firm estimates showing that before an inch of highway will be built under the borrowing program the people of the state will have spent in borrowing costs

\$151,494,000

These roads will be "Boulevards to Bankruptcy."

A Chance For a Meaningful Memorial to John Kennedy

THERE has seldom been such an outpouring of support for a measure before the City Council than there has been for the Equal Opportunity Ordinance which comes before the Council's Committee of the Whole tonight.

News stories and advertisements in the Madison papers have set forth those individuals and organizations in favor of the ordinance. Church groups, civic groups and labor groups are on record in favor of it. Mayor Reynolds is solidly behind it. Both newspapers are supporting it.

Opposition comes chiefly from the Madison Real Estate Board, which wants to control the housing market in Madison without interference from anyone.

Several members of the Council are expected to oppose it, principally Ald. Rohr of the 14th

ward who seems invariably to be on the wrong side of issues involving racial prejudice.

THE ORDINANCE up for consideration tonight may or may not make any great difference in the lot of the Negro in Madison.

The Board of Realtors in an advertisement last week sought to frighten property owners by publishing an advertisement warning against depriving people of "congenial surroundings." It was an obvious appeal to race prejudice.

Monday the Board published another full page ad, claiming, among other things, that the ordinance should not pass because it "will not eliminate discrimination. Those who are prejudiced will continue to discriminate."

In one ad the Board is warning that property owners will be

OUT OUR WAY... by Williams



Washington Merry-Go-Round

Rest Home Disaster--and Medicare Foes

By DREW PEARSON
WASHINGTON — One day after the assassination of President Kennedy in Texas, another tragedy occurred in Fitchville, Ohio, when 63 elderly invalids burned to death in the Golden Age Rest Home. The oldest was 93, the youngest 69. All were placed in the home by relatives who wanted to get rid of them or couldn't afford to keep them or by a state which wasn't really concerned about them.



Pearson

About the time of this tragic fire, Rep. Wilbur Mills of Arkansas, who presides over the Ways and Means Committee in Washington, made a statement to other congressmen that he had no intention of pushing the medical care for the elderly bill out of his committee this year.

The Medicare bill, first introduced by Rep. Cecil King (O-Calif.), on Feb. 13, 1961, has now been before the Ways and Means Committee for almost three years. But Mills, who rules

the committee with a deft but iron hand has refused to help vote it out.

If he had, the tragedy in Ohio might have been avoided.

Useful Tour

IT WOULD be salutary if Chairman Mills took his committee out to Ohio to see the charred remains of the oldsters who perished in the Golden Age Nursing Home because they had no medical insurance from the government to help them in the golden years of their lives.

The committee would find that 17 of the oldsters were forgotten individuals. They were listed, "relatives unknown." Mrs. Ethel Schwenk of East Cleveland, whose father died in the fire, didn't even know that he was in the home.

The people in the home, many of them in wheel chairs, were retired small businessmen, housewives, a railroad worker, a glazier, a meat cutter, a part-time minister, a former coal and brick company owner, and a fruit market operator. They had seen better days. In the twilight of their lives their savings

were exhausted, and they had heavy medical expenses.

So they were living in what was originally a toy factory, abandoned in 1952 when a woman was killed in an explosion. The floor was of cinderblock and concrete, the walls of wood, the roof of tar. The latter collapsed on the patients during the fire.

Four nurses were supposed to be on duty, but it took a truck driver, Henry Dahman of Sarnett, Pa., to spot the fire in the early morning of Nov. 23. When he and Rev. Clifford French of Wooster, Ohio, got there, they found the front and side doors bolted. When they finally entered by the rear, they found the old people standing around the hall. They didn't know what was going on.

No Nearby Water

THE NORWALK Fire Department at first refused to respond to the call, said it was outside their contractual area. There was no nearby fire hydrant, water had to be tanked five miles.

When it was all over, the bodies inside were so badly burned

that relatives were not asked to identify them. One invalid in a wheel chair was found cremated in the linen closet. In the darkness he had opened the wrong door. Only 21 of the 66 elderly people in the golden age of their lives were led out of the Golden Age Nursing home.

The congressmen blocking Medicare inside the ways and means committee include ten Republicans and four Democrats. The Republicans are: John Byrnes, Wis., who recently revealed to have made a \$25,000 quickie profit from an insurance company after he did a tax favor for it; James Utt, Calif., an extreme rightist; Bruce Alger of Texas, who jostled Lady Bird in a Dallas hotel; Howard Baker, Tenn.; Tom Curtis, Mo.; Victor Knox, Mich.; Jackson Betts, Ohio; Steve De Rouman, N.Y.; Herman Schneebeli, Pa., and Harold Collier, Ill.

The Democrats, besides Chairman Mills, are John Watts from the horse-racing country of Kentucky, Clark Thompson of Galveston, Tex., who lives in one of the swankiest homes on Massachusetts Avenue, and A. S. Herlong of Florida.