



SPEAKER FOR—The City Council played to a full house Tuesday night in the discussion of the proposed equal opportunities ordinance. Here, spectators fill all available space as John McGrath, chairman of the mayor's commission on human rights,

shown in the top right corner, opened the hearing with a plea for passage of the ordinance. In the foreground are aldermen's desks. Most of the crowd remained to the end of the hearing early today.



AND AGAINST—An indication of vigorous opposition came early as Ald. Harold Rohr, 14th ward, a foe of the ordinance, immediately challenged McGrath on some statements. At Rohr's

right are Ald. Harrison L. Garner, 13th ward, Mayor Henry E. Reynolds, who favored the ordinance, and Police Chief Wilbur Emery, who acted as timekeeper for the speakers.

—State Journal Photos by John Kreissler

15-Week Strike Ends

Union Approves Ray-O-Vac Offer

By JAMES D. SELK
(State Journal Staff Writer)

Ray-O-Vac production workers voted overwhelmingly Tuesday night to accept a company proposed contract and return to work ending a 15-week strike at the battery manufacturing plant.

About 200 of the 285 members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1329 voted by secret ballot to accept the proposal with only 16 dissenting votes, according to Local 1329 Pres. William Skaar. The balloting was held in Turner hall, 21 S. Butler st.

Details Not Disclosed

Details of the contract were not disclosed but it is believed that the union received a modification of an original demand for on-the-job investigation of grievances, an 8-cent an hour pay increase spread over two years, and improvements in the pension plan.

Accountants Assn. Meets Here Today

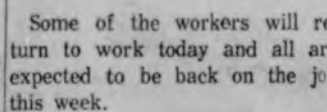
The Madison chapter of the National Assn. of Accountants will meet at 4:45 p.m. today in the Hoffman House, 514 E. Wilson st.

The meeting will include a technical session on data processing and another on general and financial accounting. Vic Wagner, systems engineering coordinator for IBM, will be the leader of the data processing session.

Daniel F. Finnane, secretary-treasurer of Baker Manufacturing Co., will be the discussion leader for the other session. He will be assisted by William De-Troy of Touche, Ross, Bailey and Smart, Milwaukee.



GUNDERMANN



SKAAR

Some of the workers will return to work today and all are expected to be back on the job this week.

The contract proposal was hammered out Saturday in an eight-hour negotiation session mediated by Mediator Neil Gundermann and Chairman Morris Slavney of the Wisconsin Employment Relations Board (WERB).

Help For Alcoholic To Be Discussed

A public meeting to discuss "What Help for the Alcoholic?" will be held at 7:45 tonight in Room 515 of the City-County building under the auspices of the city-county alcoholism information and referral center.

The meeting is aimed at informing the public on assistance that can be extended to persons afflicted by alcoholism. A movie depicting a case history and a discussion of available community resources will be presented.

The meeting marks the end of activities planned for the fourth annual alcoholism information week here.

Firm Pleased

A Ray-O-Vac spokesman said Tuesday night that the company, Madison's third largest private employer, is "very pleased with the union's decision and anxious to return to normal operations."

Company officials would not comment on how costly the strike was. UAW officials said that not counting legal fees the union benefits to the strikers were in the neighborhood of \$100,000.

The production workers walked off their jobs Aug. 22 when they could not come to terms with Ray-O-Vac on provisions for the first UAW contract at the firm.

They voted to join the UAW in March. They previously were represented by Battery Workers Federal Union which had no international affiliation.

The plant, 2317 Winnebago st., immediately suspended operations and has been closed down since.

To Withdraw Charges
UAW Atty. Philip Padden, Milwaukee, said unfair labor practice charges filed against the company with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) will be withdrawn because of the strike settlement.

The union had charged the company with failing to bargain in good faith.

When the strike began, wages averaged slightly more than \$2 an hour for men and slightly less than \$2 an hour for women, according to the union.

The last strike at Ray-O-Vac, a division of Electric Storage Battery Co., was in 1956 and lasted about six weeks.

Wisconsin State Journal

MADISON DECEMBER 11, 1963 SUBURBAN

SECTION 5

DIAL 256-3111

MRA To Negotiate Vilas Towers Site

The Madison Redevelopment Authority (MRA) Tuesday afternoon agreed to negotiate with Vilas Towers, Inc., for the sale of some 14,100 square feet in the Triangle redevelopment project as a site for a \$3 million 250-unit housing project for the elderly.

The non-profit firm offered MRA \$1.66 per square foot, the price set earlier for the two parcels.

Nowell P. Dodge, president of Vilas Towers, said the firm plans to build an eight-story building, with an occupancy of some 375 people between 62 and about 90.

\$165 Monthly Fee
"It will serve a social need which is a very valuable thing," as well as providing tax revenues and generating business here, Dodge said. He said the project will not be for the indigent elderly, and will have a monthly fee of about \$165 including meals, health services, and recreation facilities.

Dodge said that the project will contain mostly efficiency and one-bedroom units, with some containing two bedrooms. "The emphasis is on single men and women," he said.

The main thing to be worked out is the firm's request that only 125 parking spaces be required, rather than the specified 250. Roger Rupnow, executive director of MRA, said there should be little trouble over this if some means is provided for requiring the additional spaces if the use ever changes.

Dodge said that it will take about two years from the time the sale is given final approval until the project is completed.

Neighborhood House Move
MRA authorized further negotiations with Madison Neighborhood Centers for the relocation of its Neighborhood House from 768 W. Washington ave. to the northeast corner of the intersection of Milton and S. Mills sts. The center informed MRA that it was willing to purchase the Glidden paint store building, 911 Regent st., and move it to the new site for its use.

The price of the building would be \$5,000. The center said it would cost another \$80,000 to move and remodel it and \$50,000 to construct a gymnasium adjoining it, but this would be some \$41,000 less than constructing a new building.

Chester Zmudzinski, director of the centers, questioned whether MRA should pay \$1.25 a square foot for the present Neighborhood House site, and charge \$2 per square foot for the new one. He said he thought the prices should be about equal, but MRA's approval of further negotiations was on the basis of the differing prices.

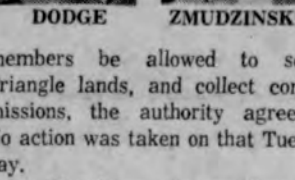
Under the different prices, MRA would pay \$41,700 for the present building and its site, and would receive about \$43,300 for the new site.

To Check Developers
The authority authorized Rupnow to contact all developers who have expressed an interest in either residential or commercial development in the Triangle, to see if they are still interested.

If enough developers indicate interest, there will be no need to consider a request by the Madison Board of Realtors that its



DODGE



ZMUDZINSKI

members be allowed to sell Triangle lands, and collect commissions, the authority agreed. No action was taken on that Tuesday.

Arnold Gehner, vice-president of the Bank of Madison, was elected vice-chairman. Retired School Supt. Philip Falk is chairman.

In other actions, MRA: **ONE.** Told Rupnow to inform the Assembly of God Church that its inquiry about a possible church site in the Triangle could not be considered. No provision for a church was included in the plan since there was no interest expressed three years ago.

TWO. Authorized the taking of bids to raze four more buildings in the Triangle.

THREE. Approved more site cleanup work in the Triangle.

PRACTICAL NURSE EXAM
The Wisconsin Committee of Examiners for Trained Practical Nurses will hold its next examination Jan. 29. Applications should be filed with Adele G. Stahl, 119 Monona ave., Room 607, by Jan. 8.

The main argument, as it has

Because of Budget Cut

Branch Libraries To Close Mondays

The Madison Public Library board Tuesday voted to close all branch libraries on Mondays because of a \$40,000 cut in the library's 1964 budget.

The change will become effective Jan. 1 and affect the branch libraries at 2041

Atwood ave., 1311 Northport dr., 1705 Monroe st., and 513 S. Midvale blvd.

The library's 1964 budget was cut back by the City Council to almost the 1963 levels. The board asked for an increase of \$43,115, most of it for additional personnel and books.

The board of estimates and later the council eliminated all the increase except \$1,850 for additional page boy hours, and \$800 for the book binding account.

The library board also accepted a report on bookmobile services which recommended elimination of stops at the Sunny Hill rest home, Sherman Terrace apartments, and Truax Park apartments.

Bernard Schwab, director, said the recommendation was made because of small circulations.

The board will act on the recommendation in January to give the public and the aldermen a chance to be heard on the matter, havior.

Opponents Outnumbered

Debate on Rights Draws Big Crowd

By JOHN T. AEHL
(State Journal Staff Writer)

By sheer weight of numbers, at least, proponents of the proposed city ordinance on "equal opportunities" dominated a public hearing on the subject Tuesday night at the City Council committee of the whole.

An audience generally estimated at more than 400 persons waited and listened, for the most part in good humor, for four hours through the hearing before the committee itself began debate, at about 11:30 p.m.

Housing Big Issue

Almost all of what was said had been already said or written in the past few weeks, but the presentation before the committee lent the words tension and immediacy. City officials said later that both sides conducted themselves well. Emphasis was on the discriminatory housing section of the ordinance.

Twenty-two persons spoke in favor of the ordinance, questioned closely by several aldermen, primarily Harold Rohr, 14th ward, an admitted opponent. Nine persons opposed it.

A show of hands after the hearing had, by count of the city clerk, 198 persons in favor of the ordinance, and 68 opposed.

A preponderance of the many petitions presented to the city clerk also was in favor of the ordinance, and some 25 persons in the audience indicated they would have spoken favoring it if they had been given time. (By agreement Jan. 29. Applications should be filed with Adele G. Stahl, 119 Monona ave., Room 607, by Jan. 8.)

The main argument, as it has

been the past few weeks, centered over whether discrimination because of a person's color could be corrected substantially in Madison by the adoption of the ordinance. Almost all speakers against the ordinance admitted the existence of some discrimination here.

Earl Espeseth, president of the Madison Board of Realtors, said, "I would be the last one to say discrimination doesn't exist in Madison. I believe, however, that city people can take care of the problems on a voluntary basis."

The opponents also said they feared, as John Threlfall, 5518 Barton rd., said, "This ordinance seriously affects our rights in property. I feel very strongly that I should not be deprived of my rights to determine to whom I may rent or sell my property."

McGrath Urges It
John McGrath, chairman of the mayor's commission on human rights, opened the hearing by saying the ordinance "is designed to provide equal opportunity to all citizens in employment, public accommodations, and housing."

"The commission, from years of experience, has come to realize that there is discrimination that effectively bars minority citizens from a large proportion of the city's available housing."

He said the combination of law and a commission, as provided in the ordinance, is necessary to create "freedom to sell or rent to prospective buyers or tenants solely on their ability to pay and their desirability as persons."

Several proponents emphasized the ordinance "does not deprive the right to sell or rent property as the owner wishes."

"The only thing he may not do," said Patrick Lucey, a city real estate man, "is to base his decision on the color of the skin, the national origin of one's ancestors, or a previous condition of servitude of one's forebearers."

"In other words, the only criterion he may no longer base his decision upon is prejudice."

Lucey said that Negroes in Madison "are the victims of a vicious and effective conspiracy," and the condition is a "disgrace for which we must all share the guilt."

He said the proposed ordinance "is responsive to the problem. It offers a comprehensive but mild approach."

Rohr Questions Speakers

Rohr questioned almost every speaker for the ordinance, and he emphasized, in the wording of his questions, that he was afraid the ordinance would "take away rights as to who you're going to rent or sell to."

McGrath answered, "The land owner would be perfectly free under the ordinance to turn down anyone for any personal reason. The ordinance is designed to rule out color, creed, or national origin as the sole reason for refusal."

The Rev. James Wright, 409 W. Wingra dr., said the ordinance would "create a climate for first class citizenship for all people. Everybody is hurt in a segregated community. The Negro is not seeking special privileges. When he appears at a realtor's office he wants only to receive the same service as everyone else."

Threlfall said the ordinance was "ill conceived," and said it "cannot be enforced any more than prohibition was. It fails to create

brotherly love between the races, the lack of which is the real cause of discrimination. No law can make one person love another."

Proponents' Points

Among the other proponents' statements were these: Shirley Abrahamson, 1101 Fish Hatchery rd., an attorney, said, "The burden of proof (of discrimination) would still be on the complaining party." She said the ordinance would actually protect landlords because discrimination wouldn't be permitted and so would provide a definite rule for reference.

Marshall Colston, president of the Madison chapter of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), said, "It is no secret that Negroes are confined to certain traditional areas in the city and are restricted for the most part to marginal and substandard housing."

Mrs. Keith Symon, 1816 Vilas ave., said, "The experience of other cities and states with fair housing laws has demonstrated the tremendous beneficial a education effect of their statutes."

Opponents' Stand

Among the opponents' statements were these:

L. L. Brazeau, 1009 Lowell st., said, "If the proposed ordinance applies only to a 'special minority class,' then we would be deliberately creating 'class legislation' and discriminating against the majority."

Mrs. Helen Wojtal, 9 Layton Circle, said, "Who is to decide what is wrong (in the field of discrimination)? Personal character and integrity is dictated by conscience answerable to God alone. The question is, shall men be regulated by other men or by conscience?"

Got 'Warning,' Lucey Declares

Patrick Lucey, Madison real estate broker, said Tuesday night he had been "warned that if I took a stand on (the equal opportunities ordinance) my business would be ruined."

Lucey said, at the public hearing, "No doubt the same forces in our community have told you (aldermen) that if you vote for the ordinance, you will lose the next election."

"I do not treat such threats lightly. I'm sure you don't either. But if I lose a business and you an election, I can only say that greater sacrifices have been made for the cause of human dignity."

He said he would not name who had made the warning.

'Love Neighbor, and Pass Law'

Ald. Leo Cooper, Ninth ward, asked Fr. Edward Erbe, a speaker for the equal opportunities ordinance Tuesday night, "Wouldn't it be better, instead of the ordinance, to 'Love thy neighbor as thyself?'"

Fr. Erbe, director of Catholic welfare for the Madison Catholic diocese, answered, "If we were in heaven, it would be a good program, and probably the only one needed."

"Where we are now, though, the ordinance is necessary."