

CARTON 9:44 THE BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS

Urban League

1957

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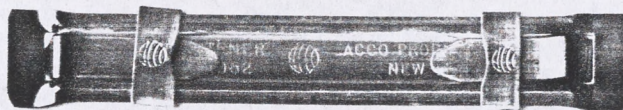
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COLLECTION NAME: Dellums Papers

Folder no. or title	Description of item	Pages to copy
Calif. Federation for Civic Unity	Letter 18 Oct 1949	1
	Letter 8 July 1949	2
	" 2 Sept 1949	1
	" By-laws: Calif Fed for Civic Unity	1
Urban League 1955-56	Letter 11/15/57	3
Chairman Porter 7/39-9/44	Letter 9/4/41	1
	" 4/6/40	1
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NAACP Feb 1934-2/39	Letter 2/28/39	1
	Report 5/15/33 (Legal Redress Comm)	2
	List of Dates and activities starting Jan 1932	2
	Letter to Bd of Supr Alameda Oct 15 (32?)	2
NAACP 1954	Letter 10/1/54	2

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# URBAN LEAGUE

A Social Service Agency  
for Interracial Cooperation

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A Community Chest Agency  
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National Urban League

November 15, 1957

Dear Friend:

As you know, the Urban League has been in operation in San Francisco and the East Bay for several years. During that time, the organization has contributed substantially to the progress of the Negro residents of these areas. Unfortunately, many of the things which the Urban League has done cannot be publicized but even by conservative estimates the League, over the past ten years, has been responsible for putting millions of dollars into the pockets of Negro wage earners through its industrial relations and job development program. And that is only one aspect of Urban League operation. Completely unpublicized and unknown to most people is the assistance which the League has given to individuals in need of various kinds of services, to other organizations and to entire communities.

Although our general day to day work does not lend itself to newspaper headlines, there is nothing to prevent our sharing with a selected group of community leaders our successes, our failures (like all human organizations we have those too), and the problems that lie ahead. This letter, therefore, is the first of what we hope will be a series of informative glimpses into the Urban League, the people in it and the work it is doing. Because of your position of responsibility and leadership in the community, you are one of the persons with whom we want to share this information.

At this time we cannot go back eleven years to give you a complete coverage of Urban League activities since its establishment in San Francisco in 1946. But we do wish to review for you the agency's work during the last few months. Subsequent letters will keep you up to date.

Employment and housing are still the main problems which confront Negroes in the Bay Area. And these are the issues to which the Urban League has principally addressed itself. In dealing with employment problems the League has consistently sought to affect positively the general policies of employers, employer groups and trade associations and at the same time seek job openings for qualified individuals registered with the agency. Over the years, the Urban League has worked closely and co-operatively with other organizations to secure fair employment practices legislation at both state and local levels. As you know, the recent struggle for FEP in San Francisco was successful. The League played an important role in that effort.



In these past months the Urban League has been responsible for the direct placement of several Negroes in good jobs. Among these was the placement of two Negro drivers with the Greyhound Bus Lines one of whom has been assigned to one of the Marin County runs. Another was the placement of a driver with United Parcel Post. Negro service representatives have been placed with the Telephone Company in two of the East Bay offices. Negro clerical workers are now employed in the administrative offices of the Bank of America. With the passage of FEP in San Francisco, Yellow Cab began employing Negro drivers. This was the culmination of long years of frustrating effort by the Urban League and other organizations. In contrast, Yellow Cab in Oakland employed Negro drivers years ago as a result of Urban League's careful and persistent work. The same is true of the Key System.

While we take pride in all these developments, we are especially pleased by the progress made by some of the people whom we have helped. A few months ago, Urban League representatives were invited to the graduation exercises of machinist apprentices. Among them was a young Negro man whom the League had recruited and placed as a machinist apprentice four years ago after months of negotiations with the employers and the unions. This young man has successfully completed his apprenticeship and is now a journeyman machinist. In another instance, a Negro forester whom we had placed with one of the leading firms in the paper manufacturing industry is now a supervisor of contracts in the lumbering operations of the firm.

We cite these cases because they made us feel good and we want you to share our feelings too. A great deal of credit is due to the abilities and stability of these individuals. We may develop employment opportunities but unless we can fill them with qualified people who have the ability to get along with other people, our work is in vain. These are the people who are the real pioneers. More power to them!

In housing, the Urban League has placed its emphasis on public education programs aimed at both Negro and white groups. In one instance in the East Bay, we brought Negro and white real estate brokers together and successfully prevented panic selling in a neighborhood which would have made that neighborhood an all-Negro residential island. With increasing interest developing in urban renewal and urban redevelopment, we are concerned with the many aspects of those programs as they affect Negroes and Negro residential patterns. Some of the people connected with the League are taking very active roles in these housing programs. The President of the Urban League is a member of the San Francisco Housing Authority and Mr. Kenneth Smith, Supervisor of the League's Oakland office, is chairman of the Redevelopment Agency in that city.

The Urban League is pleased at the increasing number of Negro families who are purchasing their own homes or are contemplating doing so. In order to assist them so they will not go blindly into the legal and financial complications, the League has been sponsoring a series of public meetings on the problems of home ownership, from financing to termites in the woodwork. The first series was held at the Third Baptist Church with the cooperation of Rev. F. D. Haynes, a former member of the Board of the Urban League, and a committee from the church. A second series is now being given at the Pilgrim Community Church, Rev. Asa Davis, Pastor. At these meetings the discussions are led by legal and other experts in the field of housing. These persons, busy individuals all, have been very generous in giving their time to this effort. We are grateful to them.

The Urban League is called on for help by many other organizations on a variety of problems. Currently, we are working with several other organizations on a program

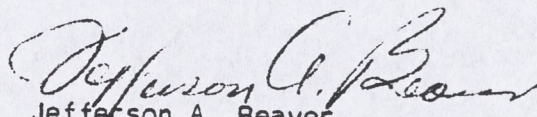


of juvenile delinquency prevention in the Western Addition of San Francisco. The League put a great deal of effort into helping the Bayview Neighborhood Community Center get started to the extent of securing foundation support and serving as the Center's fiscal agent during the first eighteen months of its operation. The League was one of the agencies which helped to establish MARCH! the special project for the recruitment of adoptive homes for minority group children.

These are examples of the Urban League's unpublicized activities in a few of the areas of human needs. We could list others but this letter is getting too long as it is.

The Urban League Board and staff welcome this opportunity to tell you something of the Urban League story in our community. You will be hearing from us again.

Sincerely yours,

  
Jefferson A. Beaver  
President

JAB/map