

MINUTES

Human Relations Committee Meeting, on February 15, 1952, 12:00 Noon. Held at Dixon's Cafe, 18th and Farnam Streets, Omaha, Nebraska

Present at the meeting were members: Milton Abrahams, Frank Cronin, C.L. Davis, Edward R., Danner, Edythe K. Hall, Reverend John P. Markoe, Mrs. C.K. Ross, William Ramsy, Otto Swanon, Mayor Glenn Cunningham: and Glenn D. Desmond of the Mayor's Office.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Cunningham, who acted as temporary Chairman. He explained that the Committee had been inactive since last Spring and that it was his desire to reactivate the Committee as an advisory group on minority problems.

The Mayor explained that former members had either left the city, or lost interest in the activity, and that several new members had kindly consented to serve.

Members present expressed enthusiasm for the future of the Committee, and it was suggested that a program of work be established for presentation at the next meeting

It was decided that the Committee should meet once a month, and that the meeting should be held on the second Friday of each month. Those present thought the noon hour was most desirable as a meeting time, and that the Mayor's office should make arrangements to meet at various locations.

After considerable discussion and exchange of ideas, Father Markoe was nominated and unanimously named as Chairman of the Committee.

The next meeting was set for the second Friday in March (the 14th), at 12:00 Noon. The Mayor's office would make arrangements for the place of Meeting, and send notices to the individual members.

the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Omaha, Nebraska

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

February 22, 1952

To the following members of the Committee on Human Relations:

Mr. Milton Abrahams

Rev. Austin Miller, S.J.

Mr. Frank Cronin

Mr. William C. Ramsey

Mr. Charles L. Davis

Mrs. C.K. Ross

Mr. Edward R. Dannon

Mr. Otto Swanson

Miss Edythe K. Hall

Dr. John W. Cyrus

Mrs. C.W. Hamilton

As your recently elected Chairman I wish to express to each one of you my sincere and deep appreciation for the honor you have conferred upon me. With your kind cooperation I will endeavor to the utmost of my ability to continue the excellent work of this Committee begun and carried forward under the Chairmanship of Dr. John W. Cyrus. We are glad to have him still with us as a member of the Committee.

I feel sure that each one of you shares with me the realization that the Mayor's invitation to become an active Member of this Committee is a call to duty, that it presents each one of us an opportunity of great service to the City of Omaha, to our Country, and to the World

That there is need for our service is beyond the question. American Democracy must survive the attacks being launched against it both from within and from without. If it is going to survive, if we want to preserve the American way of life, we must make Democracy work at home as a prelude to the Communism both at home and abroad.

Realizing the urgency and importance of this work, His Honor, the Mayor of Omaha, has requested that the work of the Committee be grounded on a solid foundation

To me, and I trust to you, this solid foundation can be only the bedrock foundation of Morality. The Natural or Moral Law as expressed in the Ten Commandments must be our guide.

To help in laying this solid foundation first in our own minds, before we may hope to persuade others to follow our lead, the enclosed brochure has been prepared. It applies the Moral Law to a typical case of Racial Discrimination, perhaps the chief of the many problems that will confront the Committee. It is urgently recommended that each Member of the Committee study this case seriously with a view to discussing it during the March Meeting.

Once the morality or immorality (the rightness or wrongness) of a particular case or situation has been agreed upon, then the energies of the Committee can be devoted to a consideration of the techniques to be employed in remedying what is decided to be an immoral or evil situation.

Respectfully submitted

John P. Markoe, S.J.

Chairman

Enclosures