

Seattle City Clerk's Office

Comptroller File

184110

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FILE NO. 184110

Petition
OF

Building Service Employees
International Union, Loc #6,
et al.
for Council to pass Ordinance
making it unlawful to discriminate
because of race, creed or color.

*See Res. 14192
also file No. 187644.*

FILED March 26, 1945

W. C. THOMAS
CITY CONTROLLER AND EX-OFFICIO CITY CLERK

BY *John B. Kellerman*
DEPUTY

ACTION OF THE COUNCIL

REFERRED
MAR 26 1945
TO JUDICIARY

REFERRED
MAY 21 1945
MAY 28 1945
TO On motion laid
over one week
JUDICIARY

REPORTED
MAR 18 1946
COMMITTEE OF WHOLE
REPORT ADOPTED

REF. FOR ORD.

C. E.
ORD.

DISPOSITION

MAR 18 1946

ON FILE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

MR. PRESIDENT:

Your Committee on Judiciary

to which was referred the within Petition

would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully recommend
that same be referred to Committee of the Whole.

Date Reported

and Adopted

MAR 18 1946

[Signature]

Chairman

Chairman

Committee

Committee

LAN CO.

prosecution could only be in the police court. It is plain
that the city, lacking the broad legal powers and the financial
resources and enforcing machinery of the State, is in no
position to create and finance such an enforcing agency. It is
admitted that the practices complained of are statewide, in fact
nationwide, and not local to Seattle. Your judiciary committee
therefore recommends that said petition be denied.

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to which was referred the within..... Petition
reports and
would respectfully report that we have considered the same and respectfully/recommend ~~that~~ as follows:.....

Comptroller's File No. 184110 is a petition signed by eight citizens requesting enactment of a penal ordinance prohibiting all "employers" in the city from "discriminating against citizens in this community because of race, creed or color". It is said that "in our city today, as in most every city throughout the Nation, men and women of minority groups are barred from employment, from restaurants, hotels, and other places in our community because of race, creed or color" and that such an ordinance would "eliminate this undemocratic practice".

Rem. Rev. Stat. Sec. 2686, known as the "civil rights statute" makes it a misdemeanor to deny to any person "because of race, creed or color, the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations (etc) of any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage or amusement." Said law already applies ~~only~~ to the public places mentioned in the petition. It does not however attempt to prohibit "discrimination" in employment.

House Bill No. 228 of the 1945 Legislature of Washington covers this in detail. Said bill, after numerous amendments, passed the House but was indefinitely postponed in the Rules Committee of the Senate. Enforcement was to be through a salaried "Washington Fair Employment Practices Commission", and a staff. It is manifest that such an ordinance covering all "employment" would require a like enforcing agency and prosecution could only be in the Police Court. It is plain that the city, lacking the broad legal powers and the financial resources and enforcing machinery of the State, is in no position to create and finance such an enforcing agency. It is admitted that the practices complained of are statewide, in fact nationwide, and not local to Seattle. Your judiciary committee therefore recommends that said petition be denied.

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CHAIRMAN

Carroll Jones

CHAIRMAN

Building Service Employees International Union

Local No. 6

1905½ Third Avenue—MAin 1371

Seattle, Washington



March 23, 1945

~~Frank Larbe, President~~
Seattle City Council
County City Building
Seattle 4, Washington

Dear Sir:

The undersigned citizens of this community wish to petition the city council to enact an ordinance in this city which will make it unlawful and provide a penalty for employers in the city to discriminate against citizens in this community because of race, creed, or color.

The time is here now when issues of this magnitude concerning our democracy can no longer be put aside. In this war that we are currently engaged in, we are seeking to destroy the forces of oppression and tyranny; we here on the home front are also engaged in a battle against the forces of oppression and tyranny. In our city today, as in most every city throughout the nation, men and women of minority groups are barred from employment, from restaurants, hotels, and other places in our community because of race, creed, or color.

We the undersigned, believe that the council has the power to enact an ordinance that could be known as the FEPC ordinance that would be able to eliminate this undemocratic practice that is now going on throughout the city of Seattle. We are deeply concerned with democracy and the extension of democracy to all the people in our community. Our conception of democracy is not limited to only certain sections or classes in our society. In World War II, those that have already died, and those that are yet to die, will have died in vain unless every man and woman throughout this nation of ours shall have the right to worship God as they please, work wherever their abilities permit, and to mingle among our citizenry without fear of discrimination. We further feel that a man or woman must be judged, not upon race, creed, or color, but upon his or her ability, strength of character, and ideals for the common good.

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Frank Laube
March 22, 1945
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We request that a date be set at which we the citizens of this community can appear before your honorable body to discuss with you the merits of an ordinance that would make it unlawful in this community to discriminate against men and women because of race, creed, or color.

Yours very truly,

Ward Coley
Ward Coley, Vice President
BUILDING SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL 6

John Coughlin
John Coughlin, Attorney

Del Castle
Del Castle, Secretary
SHIPSCALER'S UNION

Carl Brooks
Carl Brooks, Dispatcher
SHIPSCALER'S UNION

Earl George
Earl George,
LONGSHOREMAN'S UNION

Geo. Hurley
George Hurley, Representative
Thirty-seventh District

Rev. Benjamin Davis
Rev. Benjamin Davis

Dean Hart
Dean Hart
URBAN LEAGUE

WC:ops

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