

Walker's secretary said she talked with Dr. Cole
and he said that he thought this should be put off
until Dr. Walker returned.

Admiral - Hanson
+ Ce Gentner

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

"The White Temple"

910 S. W. TWELFTH AVENUE
PORTLAND 5, OREGON

Be 813

RALPH WALKER, Pastor

November 28, 1947

RECEIVED
DEC 2 1947
MAYOR'S OFFICE

The Honorable Earle Riley
Mayor, City of Portland
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mayor Riley:

Thank you for your great courtesy over the phone this afternoon and your considerateness in agreeing to take up with the Restaurant and Hotel Owners the expressed desire of Rev. Myron C. Cole (Chairman of Race Relations Committee, Portland Council of Churches), to talk with them about certain matters of mutual interest.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph Walker

Ralph Walker

W-s

Since I am to the east of town until Dec. 14, will you please drop a line to Mr. Cole, 40 First Christian Church.

*Albert W. Gentry - at 8291
Ransom D. Meinke at 5068*

*131 3533-
1104-20*

7

April 15, 1947

Mr. Lensing E. Kempton
Portland Council of Churches
305-8 Y.M.C.A. Building
Portland 4, Oregon

Dear Mr. Kempton:

Thank you for your letter of April 14, 1947, regarding the recent actions of the Board of Managers of the Portland Council of Churches and the Commission on Race Relations concerning discriminatory signs displayed in cafes and restaurants.

I shall be happy to discuss this matter with a representative of the commission. For a short time, however, my time will be largely taken with some very pressing budget matters. After these have been disposed of, I shall contact you regarding the above matter.

Sincerely yours,

MAYOR

pas

Rev. Kempton contacted
5-29-47, No longer on
this committee.

12/1/48
12
20

7104-20

REV. FRANCIS T. COOKE
Executive Secretary
REV. ELBERT R. H. MILLER
War Emergency Work
MRS. DULCINA BROWN ELLIOTT
Director of Religious Education
GEORGE L. THOMAS
Race Relations
ARTHUR J. STANLEY
Church-Y Veterans' Service

PORTLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

305-8 Y.M.C.A. BUILDING -- PORTLAND 4, OREGON
TELEPHONE BEACON 6161

April 14, 1947

DR. H. J. MAULBETSCH, *President*
REV. EARL P. SEITZ, *Secretary*
GUY E. JAQUES, *Treasurer*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
A. B. CUTLER, CHAIRMAN
EDWARD L. CLARK
GEORGE E. HALL
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WALTER W. R. MAY
C. P. MERKLIN
ERNEST W. PETERSON
J. C. PLANKINTON
CHAS. A. RICE
C. L. STARR
H. A. TEMPLETON

The Honorable Earl Riley
Mayor, City of Portland
City Hall
Portland, Oregon

RECEIVED
APR 15 1947

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Dear Mayor:

Enclosed are copies of a statement referred to the Board of Managers of the Portland Council of Churches by the Commission on Race Relations. At the regular monthly meeting of the Board on April 10, it was unanimously voted to concur in the stand taken by the commission.

The commission deplors the fact that discriminatory signs are still displayed in some cafes and restaurants. We are extremely anxious that Portland should become a city where the welfare of each citizen is the concern of all. We have an excellent opportunity here to illustrate to the rest of the nation and to the world that being different is not costly to one's rights and privileges as an American.

If you are interested in discussing with a representative of the commission, ways and means which the commission believes might be used to remove these signs, we are happy to await your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Lansing E. Kempton
Lansing E. Kempton, Chm.
Commission on Race Relations

LEK:t

B-5167



"The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America hereby renounces the pattern of segregation in race relations as unnecessary and undesirable and a violation of the Gospel of love and human brotherhood. Having taken this action, the Federal Council requests its constituent communions to do likewise. As proof of their sincerity in this renunciation they will work for a non-segregated Church and a non-segregated society.

The Church when true to its higher destiny, has always understood that its gospel of good news has a two-fold function, namely:

To create new men with new motives
To create a new society wherein such men will find a friendly environment within which to live their Christian convictions.

The churches of America, while earnestly striving to nurture and develop individuals of racial good-will, have at the same time neglected to deal adequately with the fundamental pattern of segregation in our society which thwarts efforts of men of good-will. This must be corrected. Churches should continue to emphasize the first function; however, they must launch a comprehensive program of action in fulfillment of the second function. This is imperative now."

The Commission on Race Relations reaffirms its faith in a democratic society and recognizes that its effectiveness can be maintained and advanced only through unrestricted application of its values.

As Christians we accept the responsibility of carrying forward the two functions of the Church as stated above.

We do, therefore, denounce all forms of segregation and discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color and national origin. We call upon those restaurants, hotels, and other places of public accommodation and amusement that now practice such segregation and discrimination to cease and desist from such practices. We urge that the people of Portland register their objections to such practices, and that our city officials use the influence of their offices to remove such signs as "We cater to white trade only," and to work diligently toward the elimination of these discriminatory practices throughout Portland.

Further, we denounce segregation in housing, and especially restrictive covenants and agreements which restrict the selection of housing by certain people because of their race, creed, color or national origin. The creation of slum area by the forced crowding of people into a restricted section, usually a less desirable section, does not afford the victim full opportunity to grow spiritually and physically. It encourages a feeling of false superiority in those who are not so restricted and exposes those outside the area to the ills that accompany slums.

We urge that Church members refuse to enter into such agreements. We also call upon the realtors of this city to discontinue their policy of restricting sales to persons of certain racial and religious groups to particular areas.

The Commission recommends that the Board of Managers concur in this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Lansing E. Kempton, Chairman
Commission on Race Relations

7114-20

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To create a new society wherein such men will find a
friendly environment within which to live their Christian
convictions.

The churches of America, while earnestly striving to nurture and develop individuals of racial good-will, have at the same time neglected to deal adequately with the fundamental pattern of segregation in our society which thwarts efforts of men of good-will. This must be corrected. Churches should continue to emphasize the first function; however, they must launch a comprehensive program of action in fulfillment of the second function. This is imperative now."

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The Commission recommends that the Board of Managers concur in this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Lansing E. Kempton, Chairman
Commission on Race Relations

1104-20

December 26, 1946

Mr. Lansing E. Kempton, Chairman
Commission on Race Relations, and
Mr. George L. Thomas,
Director of Social Relations
Portland Council of Churches
305-8 Y.M.C.A. Building
Portland 4, Oregon

Gentlemen:

I have discussed with the Council the subject matter
of your letter of December 19, 1946, as I promised you I would.

I would suggest that you call personally on Commissioner
Peterson, and he will explain to you the policy of the Council
and the License Division, which I am sure will be quite satis-
factory to you.

Sincerely yours,

M A Y O R

ER:s

cc: Commissioner Fred L. Peterson

7104-19

12/24
Tues

December 23, 1946

Mr. Lansing E. Kempton, Chairman
Commission on Race Relations
Portland Council of Churches
305-S Y.M.C.A. Building
Portland 4, Oregon

Dear Mr. Kempton:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 19, 1946, and the attached material regarding the resolution passed by the Board of Managers of the Portland Council of Churches in opposition to the practice of denying business licenses to "enemy aliens".

I shall be taking this matter up with the City Council at an informal session this week.

Sincere best wishes for the holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

M A Y O R

ER:p

REV. FRANCIS T. COOKE, PH.D., D.D.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

REV. ARTHUR J. STANLEY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MRS. CLARENCE H. ELLIOTT
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

GEORGE L. THOMAS
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL RELATIONS

PORTLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

305-8 Y.M.C.A. BUILDING .-. PORTLAND 4, OREGON

TELEPHONE BEACON 6161

December 19, 1946

EARL W. GARDNER
PRESIDENT
REV. WILLIAM H. FRENCH
SECRETARY
GUY E. JAKUES
TREASURER
DR. H. J. MAULBETSCH
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
E. DEAN ANDERSON
WEEKDAY SCHOOLS OF RELIGION
MRS. ROY A. GAGE
COUNCIL OF CHURCH WOMEN
REV. DICK D. MORGAN
MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION
HOWARD FOWLER
YOUTH COUNCIL

RECEIVED
DEC 21 1946

MAYOR'S OFFICE

The Honorable Earl Riley
Mayor of Portland
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Enclosed is a copy of the resolution passed by the Board of Managers of the Portland Council of Churches at the regular December meeting. We are also forwarding herewith, a copy of a letter we are sending to several groups in the community.

You may recall that a special committee selected by the Council of Churches met with you and later with the city council to discuss the city's practice of denying business licenses to Issei people. In view of the suggestion by members of the council that our discussions not be publicized, and on the basis of information given us through confidential sources we felt there was at least a tacit agreement that favorable action would be taken toward revocation of the motion passed January 2, 1942. In recent weeks we have been advised that four Issei have been refused business licenses by the city.

The continued enforcement of this motion, passed under the stress of war, and which is in essence contrary to our declarations as a member of the United Nations, undermines our effectiveness as a world leader. Further, Portland is the only city on the west coast where such a rule is in force. If we hope to become one of the gateways to the Orient we should begin to practice friendliness here at home.

We do feel that you are in accord with our stand and we urge that you use the influence of your high office to bring about the revocation of the rule denying business licenses to "enemy aliens".

Respectfully yours,

Lansing E. Kempton

Lansing E. Kempton, Chairman
Commission on Race Relations

LEK;gt



Enclosed are copies of a resolution passed by the Board of Managers of the Portland Council of Churches at its last regular meeting and of the motion upon which the resolution is based. The term, "enemy aliens," seems to cover mainly Japanese people who are not eligible for citizenship under our present immigration laws.

A special committee serving at the request of our Commission on Race Relations has held several conferences with city officials and one conference with the City Council urging that this motion be removed from the records. While no official action on the part of the City Council resulted, we were confidentially informed that it would now be possible for Issei applicants to get business licenses. After some effort we secured four Issei who were willing to apply for a business license. All four were refused.

During our several conferences with city officials, reference was made to the demand by citizens of Portland immediately after Pearl Harbor that some action be taken regarding operation of businesses by Issei. Whether or not the action taken by the City Council was justified, we are of the opinion that the declared purpose and intent of this motion have been served. We are asking that all groups interested in making democracy a real living philosophy take immediate action by writing letters to Mayor Riley and members of the City Council urging immediate revocation of this motion.

Sincerely yours,

George L. Thomas, Director
Social Relations Division

GLT:mf
Enclosures

A recessed adjourned meeting of the City Council, January 2, 1942, at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioner Bowes made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Cooper that License Inspector and Bureau of Licenses be instructed not to accept any application for any license or any deposit of money upon application for license from any enemy ~~alien~~ of the U.S. and that the License Inspector and Bureau of Licenses be instructed to take the necessary steps to recall or revoke all licenses of any kind issued to any enemy alien for the year 1942, and that January 29, 1942, at 1:30 p.m. be fixed as the time for hearing and revocation of those licenses held by enemy aliens which have not been surrendered to the Bureau of Licenses by that date.

(said motion was carried)

1254
102

WHEREAS, we are of the belief that the declared purpose and intent of the motion denying business licenses to "enemy aliens" has been served, and

WHEREAS, we feel that the continued enforcement of this rule not only constitutes a grave injustice against people who have demonstrated their loyalty to the United States, but undermines our efforts to win the confidence of peoples throughout the world and establish world unity, and,

WHEREAS, we, recognizing that "no reconstructed society can be built on un-reconstructed individuals," are dedicated to building a community where the welfare of one is the concern of the many, each having the opportunity to live a wholesome, fruitful life, and

WHEREAS, we believe that not only the present circumstances, but our Christian conscience demands forthright action

Be it THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Portland Council of Churches strongly urges the city council to take immediate steps to revoke the motion passed on January 2 denying business licenses to "enemy aliens" from the record by official action, and,

FURTHER, if by summary action the council considers it unwise to so act, then we recommend that a public hearing be held on the motion, with individuals and organizations for and against said revocation being given full opportunity to be heard.

REV. FRANCIS T. COOKE, PH.D., D.D.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

REV. ARTHUR J. STANLEY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MRS. CLARENCE H. ELLIOTT
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

GEORGE L. THOMAS
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL RELATIONS

PORTLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

305-8 Y.M.C.A. BUILDING . . . PORTLAND 4, OREGON

TELEPHONE BEACON 6161

EARL W. GARDNER
PRESIDENT
REV. WILLIAM H. FRENCH
SECRETARY
GUY E. JAKES
TREASURER
DR. H. J. MAULBETSCH
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
E. DEAN ANDERSON
WEEKDAY SCHOOLS OF RELIGION
MRS. ROY A. GAGE
COUNCIL OF CHURCH WOMEN
REV. DICK D. MORGAN
MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION
HOWARD FOWLER
YOUTH COUNCIL

September 7, 1946

7

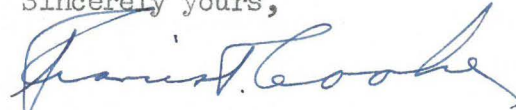
The Honorable Earl Riley
Office of the Mayor
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mayor Riley:

I wish to thank you personally, and in behalf of the Portland Council of Churches, for your proclamation designating the week of September 29 to October 6 as Religious Education Week. This week will be celebrated in many of the churches and church schools in our city. Your excellent proclamation will enable thousands of citizens to understand the meaning of this special week.

With all good wishes for you as a friend and as a leader of our city, I am

Sincerely yours,



Francis T. Cooke
Executive Secretary

FTC:epb

RECEIVED
SEP 9 1946

MAYOR'S OFFICE

7104-18



REV. FRANCIS T. COOKE
Executive Secretary

REV. ELBERT R. H. MILLER
War Emergency Work

MRS. DULCINA BROWN ELLIOTT
Director of Religious Education

GEORGE L. THOMAS
Race Relations

ARTHUR J. STANLEY
Church-Y Veterans' Service

PORTLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

305-8 Y.M.C.A. BUILDING -- PORTLAND 4, OREGON

TELEPHONE BEACON 6161

~~DR. H. J. MAULBETSCH, President~~

REV. EARL P. SEITZ, *Secretary*
GUY E. JAQUES, *Treasurer*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A. B. CUTLER, CHAIRMAN
EDWARD L. CLARK
GEORGE E. HALL
DAN W. HOFFMAN
A. V. LINDGREN
WALTER W. R. MAY
C. P. MERKLIN
ERNEST W. PETERSON
J. C. PLANKINTON
CHAS. A. RICE
C. L. STARR
H. A. TEMPLETON

June 24, 1946

Notes & 7

Mayor Earl R. Riley
Office of the Mayor
City of Portland
Oregon

Dear Mayor Riley:

Your letter of June 20th has been received, and I am forwarding it to Mr. Earl W. Gardner for a reply. Mr. Gardner was recently elected the new President of the Portland Council of Churches, and communications may be sent directly to him at 3915 N. E. Wistaria.

Cordially yours,

H. J. Maulbetsch
H. J. Maulbetsch

RECEIVED
JUN 25 1946
MAYOR'S OFFICE

7164-17



January 26, 1946.

Rev. Lansing E. Kempton
Portland Council of Churches
305 - 8 YMCA Building
Portland, 4, Oregon

Dear Rev. Kempton:

Your letter reporting an act of vandalism at the Heilig Sweet Shop where a sign was smeared with red paint, with the words "Johnny Jew", has been received, and referred to the Chief of Police for his information and investigation.

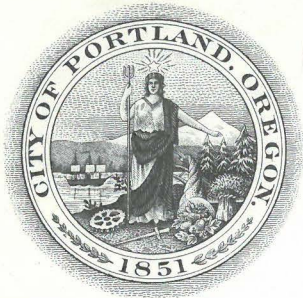
Thank you for calling this matter to my attention.

Sincerely yours,

M A Y O R

ER:jh
cc: HMN

*sent to
Chief of Police
for action*



H. M. NILES,
CHIEF OF POLICE

CITY OF PORTLAND

OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

EARL RILEY, COMMISSIONER

BUREAU OF POLICE



L. V. JENKINS,
INSPECTOR OF POLICE

Our File No _____ Your File No _____

January 31, 1946

*Council
chamber*

RECEIVED
JAN 31 1946

Mayor R. E. Riley,
Portland, Ore.

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Dear Sir:

I am returning your letter from
Rev. Lansing E. Kempton regarding the
smearing of the sign at the Heilig Sweet Shop,
with report from the investigating Officers
attached.

Yours very truly,

H. M. NILES,
Chief of Police.

HMN/h

MEMBER OF



7104-16

CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
 BUREAU OF POLICE

SUBJECT Vandalsim.

No. _____

TIME 9.00.A.M.

OFFICER'S REPORT

CAPTAIN Litsey.Jan. 29. 1946., 194

Sam Alhaderff.
 #837 SW Bdwy.
 Br. 1907.

Sir.

Re the attached communication from the Mayor's office relative to the vandalsim by painting in red paint the words Johnny Jew on a sign board.

We contacted Sam Alhaderff the owner of the Sweet Shop at #837 SW Bdwy. And He stated to us that He had noticed the sign had been smeared but took no notice of it until He was contacted by a representative from The Portland Council of Churches, Who informed him that several acts of vandalsim had been committed in several Churches and inquired if He, Alhaderff had any information as to the guilty parties.

Mr Alhaderff stated to us that a lot of young people congregate around the corners of Bdwy. and Washington Street and though nothing of the incident, Thinking it was a Juvenile prank.

APW

 Sanders and Wescott.

D 29.

D 17.

Lt. H. D. Litsey

CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

EARL RILEY, MAYOR

HAL M. WHITE
ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR

January 26, 1946.

S+u
Jan 26 1946
Post. Sec. Room
1946

Rev. Lansing E. Kempton
Portland Council of Churches
305 - 8 YMCA Building
Portland, 4, Oregon

Dear Rev. Kempton:

Your letter reporting an act of vandalism at the Heilig Sweet Shop where a sign was smeared with red paint, with the words "Johnny Jew", has been received, and referred to the Chief of Police for his information and investigation.

Chief of Police

Thank you for calling this matter to my attention.

Sincerely yours,

MAYOR

ER:jh
cc: HMN

REV. I. GEORGE NACE, D.D.
Executive Secretary

L. P. PUTNAM
Administration and Finance

REV. FRANK A. SHULTS, D.D.
War Emergency Work

MRS. DULCINA BROWN ELLIOTT
Director of Religious Education

GEORGE L. THOMAS
Race Relations

ARTHUR J. STANLEY
Church-Y Veterans' Service

PORTLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

305-8 Y.M.C.A. BUILDING -- PORTLAND 4, OREGON

TELEPHONE BEACON 6161

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C. P. MERKLIN
ERNEST W. PETERSON
J. C. PLANKINTON
CHAS. A. RICE
C. L. STARR
H. A. TEMPLETON

January 21, 1946


Mayor Earl Riley
City Hall
Portland 1, Oregon

RECEIVED
JAN 26 1946

Dear Mayor Riley:

MAYOR'S OFFICE

It was reported to our Commission on Race Relations that a sign on Heilig's Sweet Shop, located at S. W. Taylor and Broadway, had been smeared with red paint in the words "Johnny Jew." An investigation by a representative of our Commission proved this to be true.

The Commission calls it to your attention urging that you alert the police against a continuation of such undemocratic and un-Christian acts. We suggest further, that any action taken in this particular instance, not be given publicity. 

Copies of this letter are being sent to David S. Menashe, proprietor of the shop, and Irvin W. Heilig.

Cordially yours,

Lansing E. Kempton

LANSING E. KEMPTON,
Chairman, Race Relations Commission

LEK:gf

cc: David S. Menashe
ccc: Irvin W. Heilig



January 21, 1946

Mr. David S. Menashe
Heilig's Sweet Shop
Portland 5, Oregon

Dear Mr. Menashe:

We have been informed of the act of a hoodlum in writing the words "Johnny Jew" across the sign in front of your place of business. Action of this sort is un-Christian and undemocratic. We have just finished a war in which we claimed to have rid the world of fascism. It appears that our task is still unfinished.

Please know that the good people of Portland and the true believers of the Christian faith are sincerely opposed to hatred and prejudices directed toward people of different racial or religious backgrounds. The Commission on Race Relations of the Portland Council of Churches is earnestly and unceasingly working for the good of all men, believing that world peace depends on world brotherhood and opposing those things that stand in the way of achieving this goal.

A copy of this letter has been forwarded to Mr. Irvin Heilig with the Commission's suggestion that he take steps to remove the paint smeared on your sign. We are also enclosing a copy of our letter to Mayor Riley of Portland.

Cordially yours,

LANSING E. KEMPTON
Chairman, Race Relations Commission

LEK:lk

cc: Mayor Earl Riley
cc: Mr. Irvin W. Heilig

January 22, 1946

Mr. Irvin Heilig
837 S. W. Broadway
Portland 5, Oregon

Dear Mr. Heilig:

It was reported to our Commission on Race Relations that a sign on Heilig's Sweet Shop, located at S. W. Taylor and Broadway, had been smeared with red paint in the words "Johnny Jew". An investigation by a representative of our Commission proved this to be true.

We denounce this action as undemocratic and un-Christian and recognize it as an act of fascism. The Commission suggests that the owner of this building have this paint removed, as soon as possible. Such evidences of intolerance may incite further acts.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Mayor Earl Riley and David S. Menashe, proprietor of the shop.

Cordially yours,

LANSING E. KEMPTON
Chairman, Race Relations Commission

LEK:gf

cc: Mayor Earl Riley
cc: David S. Menashe

PORTLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
DEFENSE COMMUNITIES
L. P. PUTNAM - COORDINATOR - DIRECTOR
BE. 2355
PORTLAND, OREGON

RECEIVED July 26, 1943
JUL 30 1943
MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mr. Harlan M. Frost
Federal Council of Churches
297 Fourth Avenue
New York City

Irving K. Merchant
401 Minersville Street
Pottsville, Penna.

Miss Gertrude L. Apel
State Secretary, Washington Council of Churches
Seattle, Washington

Dear Friends:

I send copies of this letter to each of you in order to facilitate conference and correspondence about the project. I include Miss Apel because it seems to us that this should be an inter-state project including the Vancouver area. In our conference at Lake Geneva I believe we indicated that the colored population has increased on account of incoming shipyard workers from 2000 to 5000 in this area. Nearly two thousand of these are living in Vanport City and there will likely be another thousand to come.

There are evidences of race friction in labor relations, housing, public schools, use of public facilities, etc., not only in Vanport City but in the entire Metropolitan area. However minor some of these incidents may be, they serve to strengthen the trend toward more dangerous conflicts. We believe this trend can be countered and possibly reversed through realistic planning by an inter-racial group of leaders and other public spirited citizens who appreciate the problem and will set themselves to the task of setting up some community-wide strategy.

At this point please let me correct a false impression, which I am regretfully responsible for, regarding the attitude of the Vanport City administration. In my letter, "Report of Progress" of June 24, 1943 on page seven, fourth paragraph down the page, my statement implies that the administration had practically adopted a policy of segregation. This WAS my understanding of the fact, but a more intimate understanding of the situation has convinced me that J. L. Franzen, project manager, and Mr. John Scott, project services adviser, are striving to prevent a drift toward segregation and are endeavoring to eliminate discrimination in all respects.

They are deeply concerned that counteracting community forces be set in motion as quickly as possible. They are giving hearty support to the democratic approach to which we are committed. I am glad that my first impression was wrong and sincerely regret that a premature statement was made. It is fortunate that we find ourselves in the position of teamworker with the administration in dealing with this most difficult situation.

July 21, 1943
Dear Carl: Mayor Carl Riley:
informal may of use this
informal way of keeping you
doing and and planning. we are
thanks for attending our meeting
yesterday. Yours informal
talk was "topo".
Cordially
Lem Putnam

7104-9

PORTLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
DEFENSE COMMUNITIES

L. P. PUTNAM - COORDINATOR - DIRECTOR

BE. 2355

PORTLAND, OREGON

-2-

The Columbia Broadcasting System dramatic production ^{over} KOIN last Saturday evening at 6 p.m. was a most effective presentation of the facts in connection with the Detroit riots. This is a most praiseworthy service on the part of C.B.S. An advance hearing was given to a group of Portland leaders.

Today Dr. Nace and I had a long conference with Mayor Earl Riley concerning the situation. We gave him an understanding of our experiences and plans looking toward an inter-racial council. We want what we do to be related to any wider community program which may be set up by him or others. He was very much interested and encouraged us to go forward, offering his assistance at any point where we wish it.

We have had some good experience in Vanport City since our return. I have met a number of times with Negro leaders and it seems that an inter-racial council for Christian workers will be the result of these conferences. Our next meeting will be held tomorrow evening with about twenty colored and white leaders.

We have not yet had opportunity to clear through the Administrative Committee of the United Church Ministry by official action but there is no question in our minds about their attitude. We must move at once toward formulation of comprehensive strategy of the Metropolitan area. First, we need the help of an able and experienced leader, such as the Christian Commission can provide in the person of Mr. Irving K. Merchant. How soon can he come? I would suggest about September first. How much will it cost us to have him for a period of a month or six weeks?

Second, in preparation for his coming we shall set up an advisory committee to give community backing to the work when Mr. Merchant arrives. On this committee we shall secure the help of both colored people and white people of leadership in the community. We shall be glad to have suggestions as to just what we can accomplish beforehand in order that Mr. Merchant may begin at once to do his most effective work.

Third, we anticipate that the research and experience gained with Mr. Merchant's help will result in (a) setting up of a permanent inter-racial council for the Metropolitan area; (b) the launching of a continuing program of such constructive inter-racial education and experience as will progressively reduce prejudice and discrimination in our community and will promote truly democratic processes; and (c) the possible employment of a fulltime, well trained Negro worker on the staff of the United Church Ministry to Defense Communities for the Portland Council of Churches.

We feel that no time should be lost in getting this movement under way. Please let us hear from you at your early convenience.

Very sincerely yours,

L. P. Putnam
Coordinator-Director
United Church Ministry to Defense Communities

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