

### ANNUAL REPORT 1968



## Chicago Commission on Human Relations

- Investigated 2,315 complaints alleging discrimination.
- Conducted the first in-depth self-analysis of its structure and functions.
- Was given increased authority by the City Council to enforce open housing by including private owners and sellers under the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance.
- Doubled the number of participating firms in the in-plant education program.
- Designed a Neighborhood Youth Corps summer program for 650 teenage girls from 11 poverty areas.
- · Gained national recognition for the Rumor Central operation.
- Organized the first Chicago-area Consumer Credit Protection Committee.
- Surveyed 337 firms and 129 construction sites under the contractor compliance program.
- Continued the checking program of real estate brokers to ascertain their compliance with the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance.



### Commission on Human Relations

211 WEST WACKER DRIVE - CHICAGO, ILLINDIS 80808 - 744-4111

Peter Fitzpstrick Chairman

> The Honorable Richard J. Daley, Mayor and Members of the City Council City Hall Chicago, Illinois 60602

#### Gentlemen:

The goal of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations is the realization of equal opportunities for all city residents. The Commission believes nothing Is more basic in an open society than equal opportunities to housing, to education and to employment, for to deprive anyone of these opportunities is to deprive everyone of a true democratic way of life.

The realization of equal opportunities for all Chicagoans must take precedence over other Commission programs. To achieve its goal, the Commission asks all residents and city administrators to renew their commitment to action—compassionate, sustained action. With the continued support of the Mayor and the City Council, the Commission will do its part in bringing closer the day when basic democratic values will prevail in Chicago.

To those citizens who supported us in 1968 and to those citizens who will commit themselves to our purpose in 1969, we dedicate our 1968 annual report.

Sincerely,





Mayor Richard J. Daley



Chairman Peter Fitzpatrick

### Commissioners

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<sup>\*</sup> resigned during 1968

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### The Harvey Report

Following the disorders in April, 1968, the chairman of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations appointed a five-member committee, chaired by Commissioner Daggett Harvey, to review the Commission's structure and functions.

The Committee's report, released at the 1968 Annual Luncheon, represents the first self-analysis undertaken by the Commission since it was established in 1947. Two general themes manifested themselves in the committee's recommendations: the Commission's need to fulfill more aggressively its responsibilities and the need to improve communication with ghetto and other disadvantaged groups.

The committee concluded that the recommendations, if carried out and implemented in detail, will substantially help to shape the Commission into the effective municipal instrument of equal rights and opportunities which Chicago citizens desire.

Citizens who believe they have been victims of discrimination are encouraged to file a complaint with the Commission. Following is a breakdown of the total complaints handled in 1968 by the various departments of the Commission and a comparison breakdown for 1967.

**	1968	1967
HOUSING (NON-ORDINANCE)	29	6
HOUSING (ORDINANCE)	185	150
EMPLOYMENT	211	34
PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS	83	65
CREDIT ABUSE	1,389	1,262
EDUCATION	25	6
HEALTH	28	10
LAW & ORDER	365	250
	2,315	1,783

### **Department of Health Services**

To help eliminate inequality in the availability of medical services, the Commission received and investigated 28 health complaints alleging discrimination during 1968. Any allegation of a discriminatory medical practice is probed deeply and seriously, for recent research indicates that ghetto and disadvantaged residents are significantly less healthy than most other Americans: they suffer from higher mortality rates and, also, from a high incidence of major diseases. All 28 complaints registered with the Commission during 1968 were resolved by the end of the year.

The nature of 1968's health complaints covered the full gamut of possible allegations: discriminatory hospital admission policies, segregated rooming practices, unequal hiring and advancement procedures for medical

# Division of Housing and Community Services

The Division of Housing and Community Services' authority to break down segregated housing patterns has been considerably augmented by the action taken in July, 1968, by the City Council amending the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance. Commission Chairman Peter

staff and even a charge of assault and battery involving racial overtones within a hospital.

The Commission derives its authority to enfore equal medical and hospital rights from the Municipal Code of Chicago and from Illinois Statutes. A digest of the relevant ordinances and laws are supplied by the Commission to every Chicago-area hospital for posting.

In addition to its investigative work, the Commission launched into education by making presentations to the Roseland Community Hospital School of Nursing and the Morton Junior College School of Nursing. By informing future medical personnel of their responsibilities to all members of society, the equal availability of medical services will be assured.

Fitzpatrick and Commission Director James Burns testified before a joint meeting of the Judiciary, the Planning and the Housing Committees of the City Council urging passage of the proposed amendments.

Predicated on the historic Jones v. Mayer decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld an 1866 civil rights act, Chicago's amended ordinance exceeds the legal requirements of the 1968 federal housing law.

Every holder of and agent for housing and residential real estate is now legally required to sell, rent or lease without racial, religious and ethnic discrimination. Previously only real estate brokers were bound to impartiality.

Passed by the City Council on July 11 and effective

on August 12, the new ordinance imposes a fine up to \$500 on homeowners, building management firms, landlords, lessors and sublessors found guilty of housing discrimination. In addition, real estate brokers are still subject to suspension or revocation of licenses.

Prior to the amended ordinance approximately 22% of the 569 complaints received by the Housing Division were dismissed for lack of jurisdiction because they were lodged against private owners and sellers.

For the period between the effective date of the amended ordinance and the end of 1968 none of 20 complaints filed against private owners and sellers were dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

Concomitant with the amended ordinance, the Commission held several public hearings during 1968 with interested public and private groups concerning the Commission's enforcement of the ordinance. The hearings resulted in a revision of the Rules Governing Practice and Procedure Before the Chicago Commission on Human Relations Relating to the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance.

The rules were revised to apply the requirements of the newly amended law to all persons selling or leasing residential property. Another revision decreased the time alloted for completion of housing complaint investigations in order to permit acquisition of the questioned housing for persons who have filed complaints. The revised rules also outline specific conditions under which conciliation conferences should be conducted.

To assure compliance with the ordinance, The Housing and Community Services Division continued a checking program on the practices of real estate brokers. Separately, both Negro and white staff members visited the offices of 166 brokers to evaluate the service and treatment accorded them. The Commission initiated complaints against 14 firms. One hundred nineteen firms were found to make no distinction in their treatment of either staff member, indicating compliance with the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance. Twenty checks yielded inconclusive results and thirteen checks were negative because the firms had no current rental and sales listings.

Besides ascertaining compliance with the ordinance, the checking program resulted in the gathering of 184 listings of apartments and homes available for rental or sale. The listings were forwarded to the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities and were used by the Council's Housing Information Centers.

In addition to the checking program, the housing staff verified compliance with the ordinance by maintaining contact with all respondents who have signed Conciliation Agreements, thus assuring continued compliance with the terms of the conciliation. The Commission also met with the total staffs of twenty real estate firms to explain their obligations under the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance.

During 1968 the Housing Division received and investigated 185 complaints under the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance, an increase of 23% over 1967. The 185 complaints were handled as follows: 31 Conciliated, 45 Adjusted During Investigation, 21 No jurisdiction (prior to the amended ordinance), 57 No Probable Cause, and 10 were dismissed by Administrative Action. One complaint was dismissed through public hearing and one complaint was withdrawn by the complainant. Ten complaints were in the public hearing stage, seven in conciliation and two under investigation at the end

of 1968. In addition, three public hearings were held in 1968 involving complaints filed in 1967.

## Employment Services Department

During 1968 the Employment Services Department computed and released accurate, comparative employment figures for Chicago covering 1966-67.

The department's statistical report included all firms in the Chicago metropolitan area transacting business with the City of Chicago and having contract report forms on file for both 1966 and 1967. A total of 870 firms were surveyed.

The report indicated that while the total number of white collar jobs in the surveyed firms increased 9.3% in 1967, the number of white collar jobs held by Negroes increased 56.3% over 1966. The percentage increase represents an additional 2,997 managerial, professional, technical, sales and office jobs held by Negroes in these firms in 1967.

In 1967 Negroes comprised 14.6% of the work force of the 870 firms surveyed, as compared with 12.5% in 1966.

The survey reflects the results of cooperation of business and industry under the Commission's continuous contractor compliance program for increasing employment opportunities available to minority residents. The program is founded on the premise that new employment opportunities for minorities will reveal themselves after a careful review by the Commission of the hiring and promoting practices of a private employer. Often a systematic investigation of firms conducting business with the city educates an employer on practices required by law and changes employer attitudes.

Many of the enlightened firms have developed cooperative employment programs with recruitment sources such as the Chicago Alliance of Businessmen, Chicago Urban League, local church groups, community organizations, the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Chicago Building Trades Council, Tri Faith or Jobs Now. The relationships are building a permanent pipeline not only to Negro employees, but also to Spanish-speaking, American Indian and Appalachian white workers.

The success of the Commission's contractor compliance program was cited by the United States Conference of Mayors as a model for other cities. Similar programs patterned after Chicago's have since been initiated by other public agencies across the country.

The Employment Services Department directly benefits the unemployed by performing the role of a placement agency.

The Commission's South Side Information Center, 622 East 63rd Street, is actively involved in placing minority persons in jobs. During 1968, it received 10,638 job orders from employers. From these, the center was able to secure employment for 1,700 persons. The unfilled job orders were turned over to other public and private agencies.

In 1968, the Employment Services Department re-

ceived 211 complaints regarding employment discrimination. The 1968 total soars 620% over the 34 complaints received in 1967. The dramatic increase of complaints reflects expanded public awarness of employment laws generated by the Commission's wide dissemination of relevant information. It also reflects a greater willingness of minority groups to demand rights guaranteed by law and to seek solutions to problems through the procedures outlined by the law. Among its 1968 accomplishments, the Employment Services Department:

- Convinced a City of Chicago contractor to cooperate in hiring and securing union clearance for the first Negro Journeyman Structural Ironworker in the metropolitan area.
- With the help of the City Department of Public Works, developed a compliance program with contractors building the Rapid Transit System on the Dan Ryan and John F. Kennedy Expressways. Because of the Employment Services Department's activity, several contractors upgraded Negro laborers to the skilled positions of plumbers, carpenters and cement masons.
- Asked city contractors to hire Negro operating engineers trained by local #150.
   Contractors located at the O'Hare Field, Midway Airport and Day Ryan Rapid Transit sites complied.
- Urged city contractors to seek and secure apprentice applicants from the Chicago Urban League. Placements were made in sheetmetal, carpenter, electrical, plumbing, pipefitting and painting trades.
- Assisted five firms in resolving serious industrial problems generated internally by Negro demands and complaints.

# Law and Order Department

The major programs of the law and order department stress the importance of maintaining open lines of communication betweeen city government officials and minority groups and of providing proper legal machinery to correct instances of discrimination.

The conditions of community isolation and racial alienation present the greatest obstacles to interracial harmony in Chicago. The riots in April, 1968, the white opposition to busing of Negro children, the activities of both black and white extremists and the legitimate efforts of the black community to solidify racial pride and unity have combined to widen the chasm between black and white and to increase misunderstanding, distrust and hostility. During the past year the Law and Order Department continued surveillance of potential pockets of trouble, not merely to prevent actual disorders but to seek means of solving basic problems at grass roots levels.

More than 80 community meetings were organized by the department to discuss local problems and grievances. Commission field staff also sustained an on-going effort to develop personal contacts within key communities. The contacts were made aware of current and proposed city programs for the disadvantaged, and were asked to relay complaints of discrimination to the Commission. In addition, the department hosted 8 meetings of the Inter-Agency Committee during the spring and summer. The meetings allowed regular communication between Chicago area agencies involved in social welfare and human relations activities and provided the opportunity to coordinate plans for specific projects.

The Commission is well aware that when confidence in the administration of justice by government breaks down, some people take the law into their own hands and violence results.

To stem disenchantment with local efforts to remove barriers to interracial equality, the department investigated 365 law and order cases. The cases included move-ins, community tension, picketing demonstrations, property damage as well as disorders and violence. In many instances, though the complaints did not fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission, staff provided advice or solutions to the problems brought to them.

The department also investigated 83 complaints alleging discrimination in places of public accommodation. The most frequent complaints were lodged against hotels, motels, restaurants, health clubs, cocktail lounges, barber shops, beauty salons and recreational facilities. The allegations included not only refusal of service but distinction of service accorded Negro patrons. The bulk of the complaints originated in outlying all-white neighborhoods or in changing neighborhoods.

The question of police-community relations lingers as an issue. Where there is strong neighborhood feeling against the police, racial incidents can easily be whipped into serious conflict. The Chicago Police Department continues to be caught in the middle, pressured to take more vigorous steps to curb crime yet aware that even routine police action can result in a riot-provoking incident.

To increase the Police Department's human relations sensitivity, the Law and Order Department staff assisted in training police personnel. Commission representatives lectured to 1163 recruits about civil rights laws and to 511 pre-service and command officers about human relations. Topics included current developments in the civil rights movement and an evaluation of the climate within Negro and Spanish-speaking communities, stressing the importance of impartial enforcement of the law. During the spring, staff participated in special training of an additional 1138 task force police in human relations. The staff also participated in a Human Relations Seminar for 278 command officers ranging in rank from Lieutenant to Deputy Chief.

Following the April 4 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Commission reactivated Rumor Central, During a six-day period, Friday, April 5, through Wednesday, April 10, 40,000 calls were received.

The first communication system of its kind in the United States, Rumor Central was initiated by the Commission on Human Relations in July, 1967. Basically, it is a telephone number citizens can call to report incidents, check out rumors and ask questions. Its primary functions are to dispel unfounded rumors, give accurate information about actual incidents and answer the many questions people have during times of disorder or potential disorder.

In April, 1968 to meet the volume of calls, the operation was expanded from two to ten telephone lines, and the Commission enlisted the help of 35 volunteer graduate students to help answer calls.

In addition to receiving broad coverage by local news media, the Rumor Central operation was aired on a national CBS television news broadcast and was written up in such national publications as Time, the Wall Street Journal, the St. Louis Post Dispatch and Parade Magazine.

Following the extensive publicity, the Commission began receiving calls and letters from mayors' offices and human relations agencies across the country requesting information about how to set up a Rumor Central.

In answer to these requests, the Commission prepared a special report outlining Rumor Central. The report was mailed to 350 state, city and county human relations agencies and mayors' offices throughout the United States.

In June, the Community Relations Service of the U. S. Department of Justice sponsored a two-day conference in Chicago, hosted by the Commission, to discuss the establishing and operating of a "Rumor Central." One hundred forty-three persons, including police chiefs, human relations agency directors and mayors' aides representing 110 cities, states and counties attended the conference and visited the Commission office to inspect the Rumor Central facility.

## Division of New Residents Services

The Division of New Residents Services has been addressing itself to newcomers' needs for improved, enriched lives since 1957. Partcular areas of involvement have expanded through the years to include consumer credit, in-plant education, volunteer tutoring and new residents services. The latter encompasses encouraging new immigrant groups to cooperate with the Chicago Board of Health's neighborhood stations for health care, inoculations and X-rays; sponsoring free Spanish classes; providing Spanish interpreter services for agencies working with Spanish-speaking newcomers; and maintaining three neighborhood services outlets on the North, West and South sides, established long before the development of Urban Progress Centers.

Cognizant that exploitation thrives on ignorance, the division organized a Consumer Protection Committee and instructed it to launch an attack on credit fraud.

The committee is composed of 15 Chicago-area public and private agencies. It aims at isolating the hard-core minority of illicit sellers, sales finance companies and collection companies which prey on unsophisticated and unwary buyers. By combining efforts and pooling information, members of the committee hope to facilitate action against chronic offenders.

Already, pooling of information has proved valuable. In three separate instances information made available by one agency member of the committee helped another to prepare a case against a suspect company.

To insure public awareness of its existence and willingness to aid creditor-plagued citizens, the committee designated as its first special project the preparation and mass distribution of a directory of its members. Each member is listed in the Consumer Protection Directory with special information about the type of complaint it handles, thereby allowing the consumer to determine

1968 Total Cases	365
Type of Offense	
Interpersonal Tension	58
Community Tension	71
Picketing Demonstration	16
Move-Ins	27
Property Damage	44
Assault	53
Complaints Against City Agencies	19
Complaints Against Chicago Police Department	37
Requests for Service from Cook County Department of Public Aid	23
Other Requests for City Services	42
	390
Public Accommodations	83

<sup>\*</sup>Total of types of Offenses is greater than total number of cases as a case may be assigned to more than one category.

easily which agency can most effectively process his particular complaint.

Four years ago the Commission, recognizing the correlation between education and employment, created a new program to experiment with upgrading the education level of workers—the in-plant education program. The Commission's far-sightedness was acknowledged in 1968 when former Secretary of Labor H. Willard Wirtz commended the program to former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

During 1968, firms participating in the program nearly doubled, while the number of students jumped 68%.

Fourteen plants instituted classes during 1968, bringing the city-wide total of participating firms to 30 by the end of the year. Ninety percent of the 30 companies have initiated classes within the last two years. In October, 55 firms attended a luncheon sponsored by the Chicago Commission on Human Relations and the Board of Education to encourage companies to establish inplant education programs.

In December 2,479 employees were attending classes in the 30 participating plants, as compared to 1,697 in 1967. Twenty-five percent of the students were non-English speaking.

Classes do not follow a rigid curriculum: each teacher adapts the class schedule to the special needs of the study group. Often, efforts are made to relate the content of each course to the terminology and arithmetic used by the employees in their work.

Teachers from the Americanization Division of the Chicago Board of Education man the classes, arranged by the Commission. The companies' only obligation is allotment of classroom space.

In 1968, over 90% of the companies paid for instructional materials, which cost \$4.00 per student, in addition to the cost of maintaining classroom space.

Dropout rates in each company range from 20% to 35%. Conflicting work schedules, family problems, illness and lay offs account for the attrition level.

All 30 companies agree resoundingly that in-plant classes are valuable — not only to the student, but also to the company. In addition to improved literacy and greater knowledge, many students have been rewarded with promotions and increased responsibility. For a company, better-educated employees result in increased efficiency.

To supplement educational experience derived from the classroom, the division co-ordinates the city's 150 volunteer tutoring programs. At present some 5,246 volunteer tutors assist 10,492 students, of whom 9,350 are grade school children, 682 are in high school and 460 are adults.

In 1968, the division broadened the scope of tutoring programs to include both academic help and cultural enrichment. The division firmly believes that the disadvantaged youth can exercise more control in choosing the directions of his life only if he attains greater knowledge of the larger community in which he lives. To affirm its dedication to cultural enrichment, the division issued the second edition of the Cultural Enrichment Guide. The guide lists a selection of tours, ranging in interest from art to retail stores, that serve as valuable field trips.

The division aided volunteer tutoring projects by organizing new programs, recommending and providing curriculum materials and recruiting volunteers.

To aid interested volunteers and prospective students, the division published the 1968-69 Tutoring Directory, the "yellow pages" of Chicago's 150 volunteer tutoring programs.

## Division of Information and Research

The preceeding sections of the annual report describe the Commission's many programs and projects. It is the responsibility of the Division of Information and Research to keep the public informed of the programs and their results, as well as to tell citizens how they can avail themselves of Commission services when needed.

The Commission used radio and television to a greater extent during 1968 than in the past. The Information Division developed several radio programs. The first was a seven-week half-hour series on the Commission and the services available to citizens aired over WIND. The second was a daily five-minute spot answering specific questions about Commission services. The latter series is still being broadcast over WGRT.

To supplement publicity describing the Commission's work, the Information Division prepares specific booklets and brochures. During 1968 the Department issued three new publications: Your Right to Housing in Chicago, a small pamphlet describing the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance and instructing citizens how to use it; the Consumer Protection Directory, a description of public and private agencies addressing themselves to the solution of consumer credit problems; and You and Your Community, a booklet designed to answer questions raised when a neighborhood faces or is undergoing change in its racial or ethnic make-up. Rumor Central, a booklet describing the establishment and operation of a rumor central center, was also prepared and distributed during the year.

The division up-dated or revised three other publications. These were: Your Civil Rights, a 48-page booklet describing civil rights laws which are enforced by the Commission. Your Civil Rights was first published in 1948. The department also issued the amended Rules Governing Practice and Procedure Before the Chicago Commission on Human Relations Relating to the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance, and a 1968-1969 Tutoring Directory, which lists the locations of volunteer tutoring sites.

In June, the division conducted its annual meeting with top-level news executives. Representatives of print and broadcast media met to discuss news coverage of racial incidents and of civil disorders. The Information Division also set up the Rumor Central Conference, sponsored by the Department of Justice.

A major project for the Information Division is the Annual Luncheon. In 1968, the 23rd luncheon attracted more than 800 persons to the Grand Ballroom of the Sherman House. A highlight of the luncheon was the report of the Review Committee delivered by Commissioner Daggett Harvey.

The department manages the Commission's Speaker Bureau, which supplies staff to appear as speakers or on panels before schools, community organizations, and other groups.

## Department of Education Services

To supplement classroom experience, the Commission designed a summer program to provide a human relations job and cultural learning experience for girls aged 16 to 18 from 11 poverty areas of Chicago. Developed by the Commission for Neighborhood Youth Corps workers, the program was financed by a grant from the Work Training Division of the Chicago Committee on Urban Opportunity.

For ten weeks the 650 girls reported to 11 project sites for a six-hour "workday." They devoted half of each day to lectures and group discussions on important aspects of modern life: cultural enrichment, consumer credit and purchasing, health and hygiene, job adjustment, vocational counseling and peer group and family relations.

The remainder of their daily "job" was spent preparing for a concert in their respective neighborhoods and also a mass formal concert in the Auditorium Theatre on August 15.

For many of the girls, Project Girls represented their first opportunity to learn job and group responsibility and to participate in decision-making. By far the most important objective of Project Girls was the further development and enrichment of the individual girls who enrolled.

In addition to its special summer project, during 1968 the Department of Education Services:

Cooperated in supporting and carrying out the Busing Project for the Austin-Northwest schools .

Attempted to clarify and resolve the demand made by the Concerned Parents of Crown School asking the removal of the white principal and assistant principal.

Worked closely with school and community leaders to help resolve the Mt. Greenwood School disorder, precipitated by the busing of twelve Negro students from Fernwood School.

Maintained a close working relationship with the Chicago Board of Education, including the Superintendent, area and district superintendents, principals of elementary and high schools and members of the Human Relations Bureau. Contacts were strengthened with the Archdioscean School Board.

Received and resolved 25 complaints from parents and individuals who needed information, advice and help regarding grievances and disorders in public and private schools.



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Address correction requested