

10720 Riviera Place NE  
Seattle 55, Washington  
December 7, 1961

City Council  
City-County Building  
4th Avenue  
Seattle, Wash.

Re: Proposed anti-discrimination housing ordinance

Dear sirs:

I would like to stress the urgent need for the Anti-discrimination Housing Ordinance sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The Negro population in Seattle increased by 72 per cent from 1950 to 1960 to a total of about 27,000. Yet, because of discriminatory policies of realtors, restrictive covenants, bankers and like devices, the Negro has been forced to seek housing in the same limited Central area as he did 10 years ago. Less than 260 Negroes live north of the Canal; this number actually has decreased in the 10 year span. Because of hindrances to moving outside the Central area, the density of population in this one area has increased noticeably, with an increasing proportion of it non-white.


National authorities have been alarmed at the radical change in the urban central areas which, with the exodus of the whites to the suburbs and the exclusion of the Negro from the suburbs as well as the increase in Negro migration from the South and the higher birth rate of Negro, have become increasingly the residence of the non-white. In many cities a ghetto has developed where de facto segregation in schools and other activities is coming close to de jure segregation in the South.

In Seattle this type of development is occurring. The concentration of the non-white school population in one area, with 80 per cent of the Negro students in one of the nine high schools in Seattle, is a reflection of the alarming trend towards a ghetto. In over half of the elementary schools in Seattle the children have no contact with non-white children because there are none in the school.

Discrimination in housing has many evil consequences, both for the non-white and the white. For the Negro it may bring with it many other discriminations, poorer schools, deterioration of residences into slum areas, poorer police protection, sanitation services and housing code enforcement. In search for housing, the Negro finds he must pay more and get less than his white counterpart. The 1960 Census of Housing shows this for Seattle when comparable Negro and white districts are compared on average rent.

I sincerely hope the City Council will pass this ordinance to help alleviate this concentration of one segment of the population in a limited area of the city due to discriminatory practices of certain interest groups.

Sincerely yours,



John P. Huttman