

University of Chicago Library

Guide to the Commission on Race and Housing Records 1955-1958



© 2023 University of Chicago Library

Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary	3
Information on Use	3
Access	3
Citation	3
Historical Note	3
Scope Note	6
Subject Headings	6
INVENTORY	6

Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.CRH
Title	Commission on Race and Housing. Records
Date	1955-1958
Size	1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)
Repository	Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract	The Commission on Race and Housing Papers contains the reports of the Commission, which was an independent, citizens' group formed in 1955 for the purpose of inquiring into problems of residence and housing involving racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States.

Information on Use

Access

The collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Commission on Race and Housing. Records, [Box #, Folder #], Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

Historical Note

The Commission on Race and Housing was an independent, citizens' group formed in 1955 for the purpose of inquiring into problems of residence and housing involving racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States. Members of the Commission served in their individual capacities and not as representatives of any business or other organization.

As originally constituted, the Commission comprised the following seventeen members:

Gordon W. Allport, Professor of Psychology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Elliott V. Bell, Chariman of the Executive Committee and Director, McGraw-Hill Publishing Company; Editor and Publisher, Business Week, New York.

Laird Bell, Attorney: Bell, Boyd, Marshall and Lloyd, Chicago.

Reverend John J. Cavanaugh, C.S.C., Director, University of Notre Dame Foundation, Notre Dame, Indiana.

Peter Grimm, Chairman of the Board and Director, William A. White and Sons, New York.

Charles S. Johnson, President, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.

Charles Keller, Jr., President, Keller Construction Corporation, New Orleans, Louisiana

Clark Kerr, President, University of California, Berkeley.

Philip M. Klutznick, Chairman of the Board, American Community Builders, Inc., Park Forest, Illinois.

Henry R. Luce, Editor-in-Chief, Time, Life, Fortune, Architectural Forum, House & Home, and Sports Illustrated, New York.

Stanley Marcus, President, Neiman-Marcus, Dallas, Texas.

Harold C. McClellan, President, Old Colony Paint and Chemical Company, Los Angeles.

Ward Melville, President, Melville Shoe Corporation, New York.

Francis T. P. Plimpton, Attorney: Debevoise, Plimpton & McLean, New York.

R. Stewart Rauch, Jr., President, The Philadelphia Saving Fund Society, Philadelphia.

Robert R. Taylor, Secretary and Executive Director, Illinois Federal Savings and Loan Association, Chicago.

Earl B. Schwulst (Chairman), President and Chairman of the Board, The Bowery Savings Bank, New York.

Mr. McClellan resigned from the Commission following his appointment as Assistant Secretary of Commerce in 1955. Dr. Johnson and Mr. Taylor died before the Commission completed its work. To fill these vacancies the following accepted appointment to the Commission:

Henry Dreyfuss, Industrial Designer, South Pasadena, California, and New York.

Col. Campbell C. Johnson, Assistant to the Director, Selective Service System, Washington, D.C.

John H. Wheeler, President, Mechanics and Farmers Bank, Durham, North Carolina.

The Commission's inquiries extended over a period of three years, from 1955 to 1958. It was the purpose of the Commission to conduct an impartial study comprehending the all-important aspects of the subject and conforming to the highest standards of scientific research. All members of the Commission accepted appointment with that understanding, and also on the basis that they would be entirely free, individually and as a body, to draw such conclusions from the study as they considered warranted.

The work of the Commission was made possible, financially, by grants from The Fund for the Republic, Inc. The Fund's participation was limited to financial assistance, and it was not in any way otherwise responsible for the studies carried out for the Commission or for its conclusions. In the conduct of its studies and in reaching its conclusions, the Commission on Race and Housing functioned with complete independence.

The research for the Commission was directed by Davis McEntire, Professor of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley. Social scientists at a dozen universities, including Atlanta, California, Chicago, Columbia, Fisk, Howard, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wayne, cooperated in various phases of the inquiry. Expert advice on the planning and evaluation of studies was given by the Research Advisory Committee: Stuart W. Cook, Head of the Department of Psychology, Graduate School of Arts and Science, New York University; Robert K. Merton, Chairman, Department of Sociology, Columbia University; Robert C. Weaver, Administrator, Temporary State Housing Rent Commission, New York; and Messrs. Allport, Rauch, and Schwulst of the Commission. Dr. Charles S. Johnson also served on the Research Advisory Committee until his death in November 1956.

The focus of research undertaken for the Commission was on the problem of inequality of housing opportunity connected with minority group status, both in general and with specific reference to four groups: Negroes, Puerto Ricans, Mexican-Americans, and Orientals. Studies examined the housing conditions of these groups, factors limiting their housing opportunities, aspects of the housing market--including the demand for housing in racially mixed areas and the effects of minority residence on property values, the social and economic consequences of racial segregation, experience with non-segregated housing, the role of government and law, and other subjects.

In addition to information collected on a nation-wide basis, field studies were conducted in New England, the Middle Atlantic States, the Southeast, the Southwest, the Middle West, and the Pacific Coast. Emphasis has been on the larger metropolitan areas, where housing problems involving minority groups have come most urgently to public attention.

A comprehensive Report of the research findings, entitled *Residence and Race*, by Davis McEntire, appeared in 1959. Supplementary to this comprehensive Report, some thirty special studies and research memoranda were prepared for the consideration of the Commission. Some of these have been previously published; others will be published or otherwise made available for the information of those who may be interested in the specific subjects.

Scope Note

The Commission on Race and Housing Papers contains the Reports of the Commission, which was an independent, citizens' group formed in 1955 for the purpose of inquiring into problems of residence and housing involving racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States.

Subject Headings

- Commission on Race and Housing
- Discrimination in housing

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder 1

Description of the commission's purpose, members and work, circa 1960

Box 1

Folder 2

Report of the Commission, "Where Shall We Live?" - Booklet, 1958

Box 1

Folder 3

Maps of minority group residence in selected cities, 1956

Box 1

Folder 4

Grier, E. and G., "The Professional Intergroup Relations Worker and Minority Housing Problems," Special Report to the Commission 1957

Box 1

Folder 5

LaViolette, F. E., and Taylor, J. T., "Negro Housing in New Orleans," Special Report to the Commission, 1957

Box 1

Folder 6

Laurenti, L., "Patterns of Race and Price in the Real Estate Market," Interim Report no. 3 to the Commission [1/4], 1956

Box 1

Folder 7

Laurenti, L., "Patterns of Race and Price in the Real Estate Market," Interim Report no. 3 to the Commission [2/4], 1956

Box 1

Folder 8

Laurenti, L., "Patterns of Race and Price in the Real Estate Market," Interim Report no. 3 to the Commission [3/4], 1956

Box 1

Folder 9

Laurenti, L., "Patterns of Race and Price in the Real Estate Market," Interim Report no. 3 to the Commission [4/4], 1956

Box 1

Folder 10

"Housing Problems of Minority Groups in the United States," Interim Report to the Commission, 1956

Box 1

Folder 11

Grier, E. and G., "Case Studies in Privately Developed Interracial Housing," Interim Report no. 2 to the Commission [1/2], 1956

Box 1

Folder 12

Grier, E. and G., "Case Studies in Privately Developed Interracial Housing," Interim Report no. 2 to the Commission [2/2], 1956

Box 1

Folder 13

"The Housing of Puerto Ricans in New York City," Interim Report no. 4 to the Commission, 1956

Box 1

Folder 14

Research Progress Report and Discussion Memoranda" for the meeting of the Commission on April 25, 1957

Box 1

Folder 15

Laurenti, L., "Property Values and Race: Studies in Seven Cities," Special Report to the Commission [1/3], 1957

Box 1

Folder 16

Laurenti, L., "Property Values and Race: Studies in Seven Cities," Special Report to the Commission [2/3], 1957

Box 2

Folder 1

Laurenti, L., "Property Values and Race: Studies in Seven Cities," Special Report to the Commission [3/3], 1957

Box 2

Folder 2

Mayer, A., "Russel Woods: Change without Conflict," Special Report to the Commission, 1957

Box 2

Folder 3

Rapkin, C., "Abstract of the Demand for Housing in Racially Mixed Areas: A Philadelphia Study," Special Report to the Commission, 1957

Box 2

Folder 4

Thompson, A. et al., "Southern Approaches to Housing for Negroes: A Comparative Study of Atlanta and Birmingham," Special Report to the Commission [1/2], 1957

Box 2

Folder 5

Thompson, A. et al., "Southern Approaches to Housing for Negroes: A Comparative Study of Atlanta and Birmingham," Special Report to the Commission [2/2], 1957

Box 2

Folder 6

Helper, R., "The Role of the Real Estate Business in Minority Group Housing: A Chicago Study," Special Report to the Commission [1/2], 1957

Box 2

Folder 7

Helper, R., "The Role of the Real Estate Business in Minority Group Housing: A Chicago Study," Special Report to the Commission [2/2], 1957

Box 2

Folder 8

Case, F. E. and Sprowls, R. C., "The Housing Status of Mexican-American Families Living in Central Los Angeles," 1957.

Box 2

Folder 9

Grier, E. and G., "Privately Developed Interracial Housing" [1/3], circa 1956

Box 2

Folder 10

Grier, E. and G., "Privately Developed Interracial Housing" [2/3], circa 1956

Box 2

Folder 11

Grier, E. and G., "Privately Developed Interracial Housing" [3/3], circa 1956

Box 2

Folder 12

Goldner, W., "The Marketing of New Housing to Negroes: Recent Experience," Special Report to the Commission, 1957

Box 2

Folder 13

Stetler, H., "Racial Integration in Private Residential Neighborhoods in Connecticut" - Booklet, 1957

Box 2

Folder 14

McEntire, D., "Housing and Minorities," Final Report to the Commission, Chapters 1, 2, and 3 [1/3], 1957

Box 2

Folder 15

McEntire, D., "Housing and Minorities," Final Report to the Commission, Chapters 1, 2, and 3 [2/3], 1957

Box 2

Folder 16

McEntire, D., "Housing and Minorities," Final Report to the Commission, Chapters 1, 2, and 3 [3/3], 1957

Box 3

Folder 1

McEntire, D., "Housing and Minorities," Final Report to the Commission, Chapters 7, 9, and 10, 1957

Box 3

Folder 2

McEntire, D., "Housing and Minorities," Final Report to the Commission, Chapter 12, 1957

Box 3

Folder 3

McEntire, D. et al., "Housing and Minorities," Final Report to the Commission, Chapters 13 and 19, 1957

Box 3

Folder 4

McEntire, D. et al., "Housing and Minorities," Final Report to the Commission, Chapter 15, 1957

Box 3

Folder 5

Selltiz, C. and Cook, S., "Housing and Minorities," Final Report to the Commission - [Earlier versions of Chapters 9 and 10 that were later rewritten?], 1957