

January 19, 1953

MEMO TO:

FROM: John H. Heitzman

At the January Board Meeting there was reported a situation involving discrimination in housing in the Sand Point Country Club area. The Board indicated its attitude and one step was taken. I am suggesting another step and would appreciate your help.

Report follows:

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MR. ORNSTEIN AT SAND POINT COUNTRY CLUB AREA

This situation was brought to the attention of the Anti-Defamation League. Leonard Schroeter, Executive, called on us for help and support.

Richard Ornstein, a new resident of Seattle, has taken first step in purchase of a house in the Sand Point Country Club area - at 8020 Forest Drive. He paid \$1,000 earnest money to the owner, Mr. Robert Truax.

Lewis Hawkins, realtor, negotiated the deal.

Early in January Mr. Hawkins was approached by Daniel Boone Allison, an attorney, who lives in the Sand Point area at 7521 Fairway Drive and is the head of the Country Club Commission. Mr. Allison is quoted as saying the deal must be stopped; the community will not have Jews as residents.

Mr. Hawkins (realtor) hastold both Mr. Ornstein and Mr. Truax of this development. Mr. Truax is still willing to sell to Mr. Ornstein but needs to proceed fairly quickly for financial reasons. Mr. Ornstein, when he heard of the hostile attitude of neighbors, decided not to proceed with the purchase.

Mr. Schroeter called Civic Unity Committee and said he was calling a meeting for Friday, January 9th, of Truax, Ornstein, Hawkins, representatives of the Anti-Defamation League and American Jewish Committee and would like Civic Unity Committee to attend. He also wished a Civic Unity Committee member to join a delegation to visit Mr. Allison.

It was agreed that Mr. Helsell be asked to call on Mr. Allison alone rather than with a group.

Mr. Helsell called on Mr. Allison and found his attitudes and intentions to be hostile. Mr. Allison, however, offered Mr. Helsell the opportunity to meet with the Sand Point Commission to present the point of view of Civic Unity Committee. John H. Heitzman talked with Mr. Hawkins who said he would like to see the deal go through and that there are already two Jewish families in the area. There is a question regarding this.

Mr. Helsell reported the case and his unsatisfactory visit with Mr. Allison at the Civic Unity Committee Board meeting on January 9th. The Board agreed (1) to inform

COPIED FROM ORIGINAL IN
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DIVISION
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE
PERMISSION OF THE ABOVE.

Mr. Ornstein that should he decide to move into the community it would do all in its power to make the move a satisfactory one assuring him of help and support; (2) that, whether or not Mr. Ornstein moved in, the Board should offer to meet with the Sand Point Country Club Commission members to discuss with them the undesirability of this kind of discrimination; (3) that the Board would support efforts to develop harmony in the situation but would not care to participate in publicity.

The meeting was held Friday evening at the Anti-Defamation League Office. Those present were: Presiding - Leonard Schroeter, Executive, Anti-Defamation League; Merle Cohn, Regional Anti-Defamation League; Marvin Mohl, American Jewish Committee; Lewis Watts and Randolph Carter, Urban League; Dr. and Mrs. S. Harvard Kaufman, psychiatrist, University of Washington, (and another psychiatrist friend); Dr. Lincoln Armstrong, Department of Sociology, University of Washington; John H. Heitzman, Frank P. Helsell and Louise Blackham, Civic Unity Committee; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Truax and Richard Ornstein.

Mr. Helsell reported on his visit with Mr. Allison and the decisions of the Civic Unity Committee Board.

Mr. Ornstein made it clear he has no intention of moving in.

There was much discussion regarding the value of using this situation as an opportunity to publize the fact that such attitudes exist in Seattle - not only in the Sand Point Country Club area but in other parts of the city. Civic Unity Committee representatives were the only ones to object to publicity as the best educational technique. Mr. Mohl reserved comment on this until later.

It was left that (1) Civic Unity Committee Board would invite the Sand Point Country Club Commission to discuss the matter with them; (2) Dr. Armstrong would have students make an attitude study in the Sand Point Country Club area; (3) Leonard Schroeter would contact the ministers in the community regarding desirability of having a talk on the subject at church service; (4) the group would meet again in two weeks (Friday, January 23rd) to consider the status of the situation and (~~I prefer to interpret it this way~~) at this point the desirability of publicity would be reconsidered.

Mr. Allison and the Sand Point Commission were invited to meet with the Civic Unity Committee. Mr. Allison met Mr. Helsell by chance in the White Building hallway and said he had talked with his Board and they saw no point in meeting with Civic Unity Committee and so declined the invitation. He later called Mr. Helsell to ask who Schroeter was, saying that he had been out to the Church at Sand Point quoting various remarks of Mr. Allison's regarding the Ornstein situation which Mr. Allison denied. Mr. Allison admitted only to warning Mr. Ornstein through Mr. Hawkins) that if he moved in, he would find hostile neighbors. Mr. Helsell didn't discuss the situation with him.

Having failed to move Mr. Allison, some further step is in order. Actually, there is no evidence that Mr. Allison speaks for the community. Dr. Armstrong's data should give some theoretical insight into this. It has been suggested^{ed} by one of our Board members that, to satisfy ourselves about the true feeling in the community as to whether or not a Jewish family would be made to feel unwelcome, members of our Board who have friends in the Sand Point Country Club area may be willing to call such friends and get their point of view. We should be able to present the results of such inquiry at the Anti-Defamation League meeting Friday the 23rd.

If the results are favorable and Mr. Ornstein still will not move in, the situation could end there. The community itself could deal with Mr. Allison. If the results indicate community agreement with Mr. Allison's point of view, need for some action is indicated. If this were a case of legal violation, this would be the point for penalties. In the absence of such power -- what next?

Publicity is probably inevitable, with or without Civic Unity Committee support. What kind of publicity will serve to educate rather than punish? Can we count on the press to use this kind? What plan will the rest of Mr. Schroeter's committee go along with? We should take a forthright stand.

Will you call any one you know in the Sand Point area to help determine the attitudes there?

Attached is a list of people who live in the vicinity of 8020 Forest Drive, the house in question.