

MINNESOTA FEPC VS. MINNESOTA TWINS BASEBALL CLUB, INC.

Summary of Complaint:

The Commission has reason to believe that the Minnesota Twins Baseball Club is engaged in an unfair employment practice in the conditions, facilities and privileges of employment.

Summary of Facts:

The facts are that the Negro baseball players are segregated in their housing accommodations during their spring training in Orlando, Florida. Rather full discussion has been given to this fact in the Twin City press. It was recommended that a finding of probable cause of discrimination be found.

Motion:

Accordingly, Archdeacon Kramer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Paine, that probable cause of discrimination be found.

MINNESOTA FEPC VS. MINNESOTA TWINS BASEBALL CLUB, INC.

On July 17, 1962, the Executive Director and Commissioner Shapiro met with Howard Fox, Road Secretary, Herb Hoeft, Public Relations Director and Calvin Griffith, President of the Minnesota Twins Baseball Club, Inc. At this meeting, the Commission was promised utmost cooperation from the baseball club. There had been a previous meeting between these three gentlemen of the baseball club and Governor Andersen at which the Governor presented his stand, which backed the Commission's case, on the accommodations situation of the team at its spring training location.

We were informed that there have been many letters and phone calls between the club and the management of the hotel in Orlando, Florida, where the Twins Baseball Club has been housed on a discriminatory basis. The staff talked with Mr. Fox a few days ago and he told us he had, in fact, informed the Cherry Plaza Hotel that the ball club will not return to the hotel this year. He further stated that he and Mr. Griffith are going to Orlando, Florida, to look for another housing facility for the team. He mentioned a Holiday Inn which may be available to them. Mr. Fox has, in addition, written the Mayor of Orlando who last year was instrumental in opening of the city-owned baseball stadium on a non-segregated basis. He feels that an appeal to the Mayor of Orlando may be helpful in this particular case as well.

As the case stands now, there is no further positive progress to report.

MINNESOTA STATE COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION  
vs.  
MINNESOTA TWINS BASEBALL CLUB

At a previous Commission meeting, the Executive Director and Commissioner Shapiro had reported that Calvin Griffith and Howard Fox were going to do what they could to find other housing facilities for the Minnesota Twins Team in Orlando, Florida. Apparently, after much negotiation, there is still an impasse insofar as non-segregated facilities in Orlando are concerned.

Mr. Fox suggested, although confidentially, that he wonders if the motels and hotels had worked out an agreement that none of them would give on this situation so that the team cannot leave one of them to go to a competitor. Fox also did talk to the mayor of Orlando, since unsegregated seating was one of the arrangements made when they contracted to build a new stadium and the mayor was instrumental in seeing that this came about. Apparently, the conversation with the mayor was not fruitful.

The conciliation process within the framework determined by the Commission was (1) that we are going to have to get tough in order to make it quite clear that the State Commission Against Discrimination means business, feeling that Griffith has not tried as hard as he might to solve the issue at hand; and (2) to make quite clear to the management of the team that the State Commission Against Discrimination is talking about this year when it talks about arrangements for unsegregated housing.

A decision was made that Griffith should be invited to meet with the Commission at its next meeting in January to discuss this whole issue, and then with the clear indication that the State Commission Against discrimination wanted some action in 1963, it was recommended that he be asked to meet before the next Commission meeting with a subcommittee of the Commission if necessary, in order to speed this thing along.

MINNESOTA STATE COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION  
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Mr. Howard Fox, the road secretary of the Minnesota Twins, came to the Commission meeting to discuss the procedures which had been followed by the Twins in attempting to desegregate the facilities for the team in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Griffith who had been asked to be present had a previous appointment and was unable to accompany Mr. Fox.

Mr. Fox reviewed the attempts which he had made since their conference, earlier last year, involving Mr. Griffith, the Executive Director, James McDonald, and Rabbi Max Shapiro. The team first advised the Cherry Plaza Hotel that they would not be returning there unless they would accept all of the Twins players and were advised it was impossible at this time. Then late in October Mr. Fox went to Florida and canvassed every place in Orlando that had adequate facilities for the team and had no success. Finally, the first week in January they decided that they had to make some reservations and told the Cherry Plaza that the team was coming back. Mr. Fox felt, through his personal discussions, that the situation in Orlando might be different in another year but recognized this did not satisfy the present situation.

The Minnesota Twins have a contract which runs through 1964 to return to Orlando each spring to train, and three years ago Mr. Griffith told the people in Orlando if they would build a stadium he would extend the contract, so Mr. Fox's indication was that the contract had been extended indefinitely. In all other trips in Florida or on the road, the team has solved the situation so that all the members will be living under one roof.

A new hotel is being built downtown in Orlando right now and Mr. Fox indicated that he would transfer in the middle of the season if that hotel were able to accept them on an integrated basis, since their contract is with the city to train there, not with any particular hotel. There was some indication that in talking with the mayor, he felt that his hands were tied and that the board of directors of the hotel, most of whom apparently live in the north, have felt that they need to abide by local custom.

The Commission's discussion indicated that something is going to have to be done with more definitiveness, but the case was held open for further discussion.

Exhibit I  
2/14/63  
Case #3-ER-123

MINNESOTA STATE COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION  
VS.  
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Further action on this case was discussed, and among the suggestions made were:

1. that entering into an unlawful contract is void;
2. the possibility of providing Mr. Griffith with a tool to help him negotiate with the officials in Orlando, by adjudging him in violation of the law;
3. governor to governor contacts as a possible help in this situation.

The case continues to be kept open until further action is taken.

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
State Commission Against Discrimination  
June 20, 1963

A meeting of the State Commission Against Discrimination was held on Thursday, June 20, 1963, in the State Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota.

PRESENT: Arthur N. Goodman, Acting Chairman  
Donald T. Franke  
Archdeacon Frederick F. Kramer  
Mrs. F. Rodney Paine  
Kennon V. Rothchild  
  
James C. McDonald  
Viola May Kanatz

ABSENT: M. J. Daly  
John W. Evans  
Rabbi Max A. Shapiro

A moment of silence by the Commissioners was followed by Archdeacon Kramer's expression for all members of the remembrance of William E. Cratic as a very good friend and a wonderful leader who had wit, wisdom and understanding, who was able to get things done in a quiet way and able to work in an emotion charged area in a very competent way. He will be missed very much and very difficult to replace.

The meeting was called to order by the acting Chairman at 11:10 a.m. The minutes of the meeting of May 27 were approved.

There were no cases presented for Commission action, but several cases and situations required a report to the Commission.

The Executive Director reported that, from discussion with Earl Battey, it appeared that the Minnesota Twins were going to be staying together next year. Confirmation was obtained from Howard Fox, the traveling secretary of the Twins but he said he is not yet ready to make a public announcement since written confirmation had not yet been obtained.

A further report on the Brown housing case in Minnetonka Village indicates that things apparently have been working out all right with the neighbors becoming more friendly as time goes on. Permission was ob-

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
STATE COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION  
55 State Office Building  
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

7 February 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: James C. McDonald  
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Minnesota Twins Case

On April 27, 1962, the then Minnesota Fair Employment Practices Commission filed a complaint against the Minnesota Twins Baseball Club, Inc., copy of which is attached. The following information concerns this complaint against the Twins who are in violation of the Minnesota State Act Against Discrimination, Chapter 363.03, Subdivision 1, which says:

"Except when based on a bona fide occupational qualification, it is an unfair employment practice:

. . . (2) for an employer, because of race, color, creed, religion, or national origin,

(c) to discriminate against an employee with respect to his hire, tenure, compensation, terms, upgrading, conditions, facilities, or privileges of employment; . . ."

Chronology of Events:--

On April 3, 1962, Governor Andersen wrote to Mr. Calvin Griffith, expressing his concern and the hope that in 1963 spring training for the Twins would be on an integrated basis, pointing out the position which Minnesota holds as a leader in civil rights.

Governor Andersen followed up his earlier letter to Mr. Griffith with one on April 24, 1962, asking him about when contracts for the next season are made with the hotels and suggesting the possibility of a meeting to find ways to alleviate the present situation with regard to segregated facilities.

The Commission's complaint was filed on April 27, 1962 subsequent to this correspondence.

Mr. Griffith did reply on May 7, 1962 to Governor Andersen's two letters written in April saying that no housing arrangements for the 1963 training season had been made at that time and that they were awaiting the outcome of a bond issue vote for a new grandstand at Tinker Field in Orlando before deciding on future plans in that area. He indicated that he would keep the Governor advised of their progress in this regard.

On May 14 Governor Andersen wrote a letter to the manager of the Cherry Plaza Hotel expressing his concern about the Twins being housed on a non-segregated basis.

Between July 17, 1962, when the Executive Director and Commissioner Shapiro met with Howard Fox, the Twins Road Secretary, Herb Hoeft and Calvin Griffith of the Twins, and January 18, 1963, when Mr. Howard Fox represented Mr. Griffith when he appeared before the Commission at its meeting at 11:00 o'clock, several phone calls were exchanged between the Executive Director and Mr. Fox.

Exhibit II dated 9/21/62 reports the meeting of July 17; exhibit I dated 12/13/62 refers to the Commission's decision to invite Mr. Griffith to meet with the Commission. Exhibit I dated 1/18/63 reports the appearance of Mr. Fox, who represented Mr. Griffith, at the Commission meeting. All three exhibits are attached.

January 31, 1963: The Twins issued a press release stating that "the Cherry Plaza Hotel, the only hostelry in the area which has adequate facilities in number and quality of rooms and in eating facilities, so far has refused to change its policy of segregation." The release went on to say that a new hotel was under construction and several others were either being planned or under construction. It further stated that the Twins administration felt that there was a general trend toward integration and that the Twins deplored segregation of its players on two accounts, one from a moral standpoint and the other from a bookkeeping standpoint. The Twins' release further indicated that "the Twins administration inherited a 10-year contract to train in the city of Orlando, the contract not to expire until after the spring of 1964." Also, "The Twins are eager to see the end of segregation of their players in Orlando. They are confident and hopeful that this will be accomplished before the contract expires."

February 14, 1963: Further action on this case discussed at Commission meeting is reported in Exhibit I dated 2/14/63, which is attached.

Between February 14, 1963 and November 27, 1963, several phone calls and discussions were held between Mr. Howard Fox and the Executive Director each in an attempt to conciliate this case.

November 27, 1963: Howard Fox, Twins Road Secretary, Frank Kent of the Public Relations Department of General Mills, and Earl Battey, Twins catcher and also employed by General Mills, were in for a conference attended by the Executive Director and the Assistant Director. Mr. Fox, at that time, felt that efforts should continue to be made. Mr. Battey pointed out that the Negro players of the Twins team did not like being segregated and wanted to live with the rest of the team.

January 16, 1964: At the Minnesota Council for Civil and Human Rights meeting, Earl Battey was the featured speaker. During the question and answer period, he was asked about the housing situation in Orlando. He reiterated that it was segregated. The Council then adopted a resolution to mention this publicly in a press release. This they did, and the follow-up accompanies this memorandum in the form of copies of news articles that have appeared.



Memorandum for Commission Members  
7 February 1964

3.

February 6, 1964: Letter to the Editor in Minneapolis Tribune from the Editor of the Orlando Morning Sentinel and Orlando Evening Star generally reflects what we have in more detail in our file.

This case will be discussed in full at Commission meeting and a decision must be made as to whether or not to ask the Governor to appoint a Board of Review for a public hearing.

If there are any specific questions any Commissioner would like to ask, please call collect (221-2896) to either the Assistant Director or the Executive Director.

JCM/c

enclosures

COPY

Department: Attorney General

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum

Feb. 5, 1964

TO: Governor Karl F. Rolvaag  
FROM: Walter F. Mondale  
SUBJECT: SCAD - Minnesota Twins Case

The Minnesota Twins is the only major league baseball club which still requires Negro players to live in segregated accommodations, apart from the white players, during spring training.

Mr. Griffith states that the Cherry Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida, where the team lives during training, will not allow integrated accommodations, and thus he is "stuck" with the situation.

Information has been received by SCAD in the past two weeks that other hotels in Orlando with capacity to take the Twins will accept them on an integrated basis and are, in fact, eager to do so. These hotels do not indicate that Mr. Griffith has ever shown any strong desire to investigate their facilities. One such hotel is a Holiday Inn motel, another is the Angebilt, a nice hotel in downtown Orlando.

The history of the case is as follows:

The old FEPC issued a complaint against the Twins on April 27, 1962.

Conferences were held between Griffith and FEPC officials, and between Griffith's representatives and Governor Andersen, which resulted in no solution to the problem and what appeared to be delaying tactics by the Twins.

Conferences were held on July 19, 1962 and January 9, 1963 and January 18, 1963, with Twins officials, but no resolution was reached.

The Twins go into spring training February 25, still in segregated accommodations.

On February 11, SCAD will meet and will probably wish to ask you to appoint a Board of Review pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 363.07, to conduct public hearings and subsequently issue orders in the case.

Under the law, this Board is to be composed of three members chosen from a panel of twelve. At present there are four vacancies on the panel which are being filled by continuing Andersen appointees whose terms ran out in July. You could, if you wish, make new appointments or choose from the panel which exists.

At any rate, it is my feeling that this case has dragged on long enough without resolution. It is a shame that Minnesota should be the only major league club requiring its Negro players to endure the humiliation of segregation, and I would strongly recommend that when this request comes, you be prepared to appoint a Board of Review immediately. I would like to confer with you about this if I may.

WFM:jc

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
State Commission Against Discrimination  
March 17, 1964

A meeting of the State Commission Against Discrimination was held on Tuesday, March 17, 1964, in Conference Room C of the Veterans Service Building, St. Paul, Minnesota.

PRESENT: Kennon V. Rothchild, Chairman  
James L. Gibbs, Jr.  
Archdeacon Frederick F. Kramer  
Katherine E. Muff  
Dr. John J. Salchert  
Rabbi Max A. Shapiro  
  
James C. McDonald  
Viola May Kanatz  
Walter S. Warfield  
  
Special Assistant Attorney General Joseph Summers  
Jack Mackay, Associated Press  
Paul Gilje, Minneapolis Star

ABSENT: M. J. Daly  
Donald T. Franke  
Stephen B. Humphrey

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 1:40 P.M. The minutes of the February 20, 1964 meeting were approved upon motion by Commissioner Kramer.

The Chairman responded to a question by Commissioner Gibbs clarifying the discussion which had occurred toward the end of the February 20 meeting in regard to the case involving the three Minneapolis schoolteachers. Essential to this discussion was the fact that we had not received a formal complaint in regard to these cases.

At the February 20 meeting, the State Commission Against Discrimination had requested Governor Rolvaag to appoint a Board of Review in regard to the inability to eliminate the unfair discriminatory practices of the Minnesota Twins by conciliation. Information has gone out to the Commissioners regarding the action taken by the Twins management since that time. A letter from Joseph P. Summers, Special Assistant Attorney General, to Philip Neville, chairman of the Board of Review, in reference to the Minnesota State Commission Against Discrimination versus the Minnesota Twins Baseball Club, Inc. and Calvin Griffith, was read:

(Continued on next page)

3/17/64

Dear Mr. Neville:

The Commission has received reliable information that Mr. Griffith has discontinued the alleged discriminatory practice upon which this proceeding was based. We are at the present time engaged in discussions with Mr. Griffith's attorneys regarding a settlement which would be acceptable to all parties. The Commission therefore respectfully moves the Board of Review to postpone indefinitely the hearing scheduled to be held on Monday, April 6, 1964.

The Commission had some discussion regarding the necessity for a thorough review of the action which has been taken before determining that a satisfactory adjustment has been made in this case. It would then be in order to notify the Governor that the case has been satisfactorily adjusted in order to give him an opportunity to dismiss the review panel.

Summaries of the cases discussed are attached as exhibits and the action taken on these cases is as follows:

- #5-ER-170. Dismissed, no probable cause.  
Motion by Mrs. Muff, seconded by Dr. Salchert.
- #4-ER-171. Dismissed, no probable cause.  
Motion by Mrs. Muff, seconded by Rabbi Shapiro.  
The Commission directed that the complainant in this case be counseled in an attempt to help him look for the kind of position which he can obtain, or to seek out the kind of training which would be helpful in aiding him to find a job.
- #3-AR-H53. Insufficient evidence for determination of probable cause.  
Motion by Archdeacon Kramer, seconded by Dr. Salchert.  
The Commission directed that a statement of nondiscriminatory policy be obtained.
- #1-AR-H58. Insufficient evidence to make a determination of probable cause. Motion by Dr. Salchert, seconded by Dr. Gibbs.  
The Commission directed that a statement of nondiscriminatory policy be obtained.
- #1-OR-H59. Insufficient evidence to determine probable cause.  
Motion by Dr. Salchert, seconded by Archdeacon Kramer.  
The Commission directed that a statement of nondiscriminatory policy be obtained.
- #5-AR-H64. Probable cause found.  
Motion by Mrs. Muff, seconded by Dr. Salchert.
- #4-AR-H65. Insufficient evidence to determine probable cause.  
Motion by Rabbi Shapiro, seconded by Mrs. Muff.  
The Commission directed that a statement of nondiscriminatory policy be obtained and a future meeting held with the agency salesmen.
- #5-AR-H67. Dismissed, no probable cause.  
Motion by Dr. Gibbs, seconded by Dr. Salchert.