

CATHOLIC INTERRACIAL COUNCIL

PHONE

REctor 2-5417

NEWS SERVICE

20 Vesey St.
N.Y.C.

CATHOLIC LAY ORGANIZATIONS
BACK FAIR HOUSING LEGISLATION

Brooklyn, Oct. 29 - Eighteen Catholic lay organizations last night urged passage of State Fair Housing Practices legislation at a meeting sponsored by the Brooklyn Catholic Interracial Council.

The organizations, representing more than 210,000 Catholics in the metropolitan area, voted support of legislation which would outlaw discrimination in private housing throughout New York State.

Leaders of the organizations called upon Governor Rockefeller and legislative leaders of both parties to lend bi-partisan support to measures which would prohibit discrimination in private housing.

Rev. Archibald V. McLees, moderator of the Brooklyn Catholic Interracial Council, said, "These lay organizations represent a significant sampling of Catholic sentiment. Their support of anti-discrimination legislation is in keeping with the Bishops' Statement of 1958, "Discrimination and the Christian Conscience," calling for greater Catholic participation to achieve equal opportunity for all minority groups."

At the meeting Assemblyman Bertram L. Baker stressed the need for such law stating, "The proposed law will not interfere with the landlords' right to select tenants with regard to character, ability to pay, credit standings or other standards of selection."

This legislation", he said, "is directed at overcoming racially restrictive housing patterns which create so much havoc to family life within minority groups."

"It is my firm conviction that a strong law to prevent discrimination in private housing, as proposed by the Baker-Metcalf Bill is an immediate need in the State of New York."

The organizations voting in favor of a State Fair Housing Practices law were:

Brooklyn Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies
Association of Catholic Trade Unions
Catholic Interracial Council of New York
Brooklyn-Queens Federation of the Christian Family Movement
Fordham University Downtown and Uptown Interracial Clubs
Friendship House of Harlem
Queens Catholic Interracial Council
Brooklyn-Queens Federation of Young Christian Workers
St. Columba Knights of Columbus Council
Grail Foreign Student Center
New York Professional Sodality
Alumni Race Relations Council
Catholic Laymen's Union
Grail Overseas Training Institute
New York Federation of Young Christian Workers
Brooklyn Catholic Interracial Council
New Rochelle Catholic Interracial Council