

Report of Conference Called by Mayor Addonizio

On May 22, 1963.

In his opening statement, the Mayor said he had called together Director Spina, Norman Schiff and Dan Anthony to discuss a few matters of vital importance.

1. He indicated that this meeting was a result of several Memos he had received from Dan Anthony during the preceding month; the most important of which was the carbon copy of the Memo to Director Spina, calling for liaison and cooperation between the Newark Human Rights Commission and the Police Department. At the outset, he said: "I want to get Anthony and Spina working closer together. The times are such that I must have this kind of cooperative working arrangements between you two".

He then asked if Spina could reveal police reports of inter-racial strife to the Human Rights Commission. Spina said that if he had to do this, he would be spending all of his time talking with our Agency, because almost everything which comes up these days has a racial flavor.

2. Although no resolution was achieved on this idea of the Mayor's for closer liaison, Spina did say that he wants our Staff and Commission members to sit in on the Precinct Police Community Relations Committees which he plans to inaugurate during the last week in May. I assured him that the Commission Staff and Commissioners would be more than delighted to serve on such Committees.

3. Norman Schiff then indicated that they must have a closer working relationship between the Mayor's office and the activities of the Commission. He said: "For instance, you should not have had such an important thing as the Muslim Meeting without contacting us first". He told him that the Commission in the past had operated on an autonomous basis and that I had seldom

cleared Commission business with the front office, but that, if he and the Mayor decided such a change in past policy, we would be happy to accede to this demand. Whereupon, the Mayor interceded and said: "We just feel that as politicians, we ought to have the knowledge of the recommendations you are making to your Commission".

4. We then discussed the selection of my nominees to the Newark Human Rights Commission to bring it up to its full strength of 15 members. Norman Schiff and Director Spina both made statements concerning Bob Curvin, Chairman of the local C.O.R.E. Chapter. They virulently condemned him as the wrong kind of "militant racist, who would be inimical to the best interests of the Administration and the Newark Human Rights Commission". I told both Spina and Schiff that I felt they were wrong in their reactions to Bob Curvin, and that I felt the Negro community would not be happy unless just such a militant spokesman as Curvin were included on our Commission membership.

However, when the Mayor joined in with the feelings of Spina and Schiff, I again acceded and suggested that we discuss the rest of the names. Herbert Tate, Ben Epstein, Dick Foley and Dr. Jose Vazquez were agreed upon. I called the first three that day and Marie Gonzalez called Dr. Vazquez. They all agreed to serve.

Ralph Zinn, on May 24th, wrote a news release, distributing it to the local weeklies and dailies plus the metropolitan news sources. As of Tuesday, May 28th, the news stories on these four new appointees have not appeared in any paper.

Respectfully submitted,

DSA:rfm

Daniel S. Anthony