

REAL ESTATE ISSUE STIRS CITIZEN: ATTEMPT TO SEGREGATE ... BE BITTERLY FOUGHT

A STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The white real estate dealers have made a very strenuous effort to start a segregation movement in this city. Through much publicity by the downtown daily papers they have been able to create quite a stir and last week they went so far as to offer to hold a conference Monday in the offices of the Chicago Realty Board, in which they would try and come to some agreement with the real estate dealers who were members of the Race.

Big Men Present

Many big men of both races were present. Jesse Binga, banker; Robert S. Abbott, editor of the Chicago Defender; A. L. Jackson, secretary of the Wabash branch of the Y. M. C. A.; Faulkner of Faulkner & Cook real estate firm; Messrs. Anderson and Terrell of the real estate firm of that name; James H. Porter, Eugene Manns, George Jackson and others were there in the interest of the Race. Several bankers, real estate loan men, and real estate dealers represented the whites, among whom were L. C. Orr, L. M. Smith, Ivan Ack-

ey, John Carroll, Yandorff, Cramer, a representative from McKay & Co. Also there were three newspaper reporters from the downtown papers, two were women. One thing noticeable was that during the speeches of the white men their pens were busy, but as soon as any member of the Race took the floor they laid their pads and pens down.

The Proposition

L. C. Orr said he wanted the real estate agents to quit selling to Negroes in blocks where more than 75 per cent of the whites resided. He favored the law which was passed in St. Louis, which asked those of the Race in the real estate business to quit selling to their own race in districts where the greater portion was white. He continued to use the word "desist."

Mr. Faulkner said it was a poor proposition. A. L. Jackson told his hearers that he did not like the word "desist" and emphasized the fact that the question COULD NOT BE REGULATED BY THE BOARD, which seemed to be prejudiced. James H. Porter, while not answering the white men direct, put a few questions to them which caused them to get uneasy. Porter wanted to know if they would proceed to treat the other nationalities in this manner, especially the Jew. Robert S. Abbott said he was there in the interest of the Race and that nothing less than JUSTICE. Walter B. Anderson and Terrell also told the "bo" themselves were responsible for the situation more than any on the Negro real estate market. They were those who had money on good property because the dealers were. Again the men that were of our Race getting into white blocks were themselves. The meeting was the disgust of all. The morning and afternoon sessions were out with the same story.

A. L. Jackson and Terrell said they had to say down to it. The whole trouble will be a pauper estate agents, us who are in business. There are concerns who have sold more of our people than all the white men put together. They were at the meeting.

"We have been to the loan men for loans on the Second ward which has a value per front foot, and have been down. They won't listen to any proposition where our people are to be benefited by the deal."

"We have 150 calls a day for flats, and cannot supply the demand. There is no body that wants to live like cattle. We demand that we buy and sell where we choose."

Mr. Anderson says it is not for today alone that we are fighting, but for tomorrow. If these fellows have their way our future generation, among whom there will be many millionaires, will have to buy a piece of property. Neither would any doctor or other business man be in that part of the town. We will fight it.

Other real estate men voiced their opinion. Many say they will meet at the next meeting. The whole case of prejudice in a nutshell, a reporter found out that in one State street values had jumped 200 per cent in five years. He confronted a white real estate man the latter was not able to explain they said: "Negroes deprive value," when this entire bloc was with our business men.