

# Oregon Panelists' Civil Rights Views Noted in Pamphlet

Salem - How does Oregon measure up in the practice of civil rights? Seventeen prominent Oregonians exchange views on the subject in a publication released by Labor Commissioner Norman O. Nilsen. Discrimination in Oregon is termed "silent" but actual and the way in which it is met important "in germinating either beneficial or harmful

elements in the state's economy." The panelists generally favor a "frontal attack" on spots weak in providing equal opportunity to minority groups. The pamphlet introduces the panel members as coming from "different walks of life and economic sections but speaking on the problems of race relations as individuals and not as representatives of

any groups." It is part of a Panel on Progress series conducted by Dr. Eric J. Weiss, research director of the Bureau of Labor. The series features views of leading citizens on social and economic issues bearing upon laws under the labor bureau's jurisdiction. Oregon civil rights administration dates to the Fair Employment Practices enactment of 1949.

The new pamphlet has a lively and highly informative dialogue that explores questions of greatest concern to Negro citizens - employment, education and union membership. The panelists suggest some break in the baffling silence cloaking discriminatory practices in employment might be made by employers, professional associations and unions affirming non-discrimi-

nation policies in public statements. Alerting minority youth to the possibilities for acquiring marketable skills through vocational training, apprenticeship and other learner jobs was another recommendation. More than half of the panelists favor inclusion of a non-discrimination clause in union contracts based on federal law. Unanimously favored

was a similar clause in the charters of local unions but half of those approving such action would not go so far as placing it under federal enforcement. The discussion covers "the career barriers that frequently run like an invisible wall before the Negro college graduate when he seeks to apply his abilities in the working world." Proposals for de-

segregating schools through a program of student exchange from district to district are considered. The panelists also venture into reasons for "the small number of minority group members in financial, public utility and other institutions and on the executive level in all businesses." **Permissible Tool** Little justification is found for exempting employers with less than six employees from Oregon's FEP Law. Consumer buying is adjudged a permis-

sible tool against discrimination in employment but doubt is expressed on its effectiveness in Oregon since minority groups comprise a small percentage of the citizenry. Dr. Weiss asserts he encountered some reluctance among well-known citizens to participate in the civil rights panel because "of becoming involved in controversy". He regards those who served on the panel, however, as "particularly well enlightened on the subject and forthright in

expressing their views on race relation problems." The pamphlet may be obtained at Bureau of Labor offices in Portland, 408 State Office Building and in Salem, 115 Labor and Industries Building. **MUMMY SWEATS** The blackened mummy of a prehistoric Chilean copper miner still exudes a strange "perspiration" at New York's American Museum of Natural History.



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