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SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 23, 1982
Nov 15 4 12 PM '82

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By the City Council
Office of the City Clerk

PROPOSAL

AN AT LARGE CITY OMBUDSMAN

NOV 23 1982

Greetings. WHEREAS the City of Sacramento is the state capital, and boasts formidable unique positions in the nation, the need for a public OMBUDSMAN answerable directly to the Attorney General, is of the greatest urgency. There are those who fall in the cracks, not covered under the umbrella of public assistance, nor well off enough to hire legal counsel.

This writer moved to Sacramento in July of 1981, and has lived at the same address. About two blocks away is a pretty big, modern building which houses Catholic Services and Catholic Counseling, I visited there once sometime ago to pick up a job description.

The afternoon of October 6, 1982 after much hesitation, I visited again and requested of the receptionist a counselor. A young man was assigned. He led me to his office and I mentioned that I had once worked for Catholic Services but that my need was to get help on a legal matter, and that I had read and heard the Archbishop of San Francisco speak out so strongly for the poor and justice, I would like to get my case to him for I had tried in vain for over a year and was at my end of resources.

He suggested McGeorge Law School, I told him I had gone there in the summer, he called and was instructed to tell me to call them a little later. I left and went to a pay booth. After much interruptions of the receptionist doubling as counselor, she told me they were not set up for cases such as mine. I returned to the building and asked for Mr. X. After a while he was found and came to the waiting room with a cup in his hand, he sat down and I proceeded to tell him of the negative response. Looking

Cont'd

straight at me he said, "Do you know you are becoming a pain?"

1 Shock and consternation propelled me to my feet, and
2 wordlessly I left him and went to the receptionist's window,
3 "May I see a lady counselor moreover I have become a pain to
4 Mr. X." Before she could respond to me, Mr. X passed my
5 right shoulder and came to my left, and as master to slave,
6 "Go back to the waiting room or leave the building, I give you
7 one or two minutes," when I asked what crime I had committed
8 in asking for a lady counselor, he accused me of disrupting
9 the office, and that he would call the police, I saw the lady
10 receptionist leave her post. I stood mute for the officer
11 to come, and sort of waited to see if any of the staff would
12 pick up where he left off, but there was the finality of the
13 police being summoned. After a while I left the building,
14 as I crossed the street a cruising police cruiser stopped me,
15 I could hear over his short wave, "Negro woman in blue dress."

16 Mr. X by then was standing in the doorway and he was
17 called over by the officer, he told the officer since I left
18 the building under my own steam that was all there was to it.
19 I looked up the street, and another cruiser was steaming down.
20 I told the officer I had a letter of commendation from the
21 police department of Hartford, Connecticut for civic work and
22 that I resented the idea of being put on the spot for requesting
23 a female counselor. I want to say right here I am neither
24 "Negro nor black, etc." Having been naturalized, I think I
25 deserve being called African-American, or Africanese. The
26 media use of these deliberately dehumanizing labels should be
terminated. The new minority has been dubbed AMERASIANS, and
rightly so, Mr. X could think disrespectfully and act out his
inbred hostility through the pervasive usage of slave-era tags
from his young childhood days to the present ra-ra of the KKK.

Here is a single woman, without spouse or relative,
seeking aid from a source touted widely, and is not only
denied the simple accomodation of verifying a referral, but is
humiliated in the presence of many by being interrogated by the
police on the street, what was her crime?

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Mrs. Montgomery, secretary of Senator John Dolittle, is one who could think of me as a pain, for I waited week after week for some six months until I gave up, to see the senator. She was most gracious, and I think she would be willing to testify to my deportment. The place and setting of Catholic Counseling suggest the discouragement of a certain segment, whereas there was much display of Oriental projects. In all the months I have never observed any staff member or client of African-American ethnicity.

The churches from Vista to San Diego to Sacramento are as private country clubs, I can personally cite them.

Sacrificing needed dental work, telephone, tuition for self and daughter, I mailed to my landlord from Los Angeles, September 13, 1982 a sum of \$900.00, I did this to assure him that I was not altogether a deadbeat, that I was aware rent had to come first....I came up on the 27th to find he was making further demands about security which had been under an oral agreement with the previous LANDLORD, and threatening eviction.

I went to court November 10. This is where Almighty God stepped into the breach. I had written an account of my hassle with Mr. X and why I sought help to Archbishop Quinn's office. I managed to get a return ticket to San Francisco when I heard nothing. I saw the secretary to the Archbishop. They could not find the letter, he spoke to me standing between the door of the glassed-in office. I was able to prevail on a letter from him to the only source he could think of, a tenants' association of Sacramento. They are no longer at the address in the telephone book, a number given by information did not answer all day. So, I made up my mind to go to the eviction hearing as my own attorney.

I had written to a friend to please come if possible so I would not be alone, I instructed him to wait by the elevators. At about 9.10 a.m., I reached the courthouse and immediately

steno-typist and an un-uniformed man apparently the judge's
marshall.

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The bottom line then was for my friend to accompany me over
to my legal rescuer's office to sign affidavits to combat the
default.

The dispute is not whether he came to the rails and said
what he said he did, it is the fact that no names were called,
and a fast working, courtwise attorney could within minutes
dispatch a default in a case of grave consequences to the
attorney-less defendant. The happenstance of that young
attorney coming into the lobby while I am waiting for my friend
was a long shot, no one in this day and age should be exposed
to such risk. This is a society that finds it expedient to
furnish expensive multi-roomed mansions for high salaried
officials, but the disadvantaged are left to be further savaged
by circumstances out of their control.

The Housing Authority has just unearthed some twenty-five
apartment complexes which actively discriminate against more
than one ethnic group, housing, as necessary as food, demands
sincere, meaningful action pronto.

cc: Governor-elect George Deukmejian

NAACP
CHANNEL 3

Ceil Browne Adams
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Ceil Browne Adams

5820 "H" Street #32
Sacramento California 95819

1 went to information as to the courtroom of case 44788. On a
2 list I readily found it and told her it was Dept. P. She
3 directed me to the sixth floor, I then asked her what was the
4 meaning of U D besides the Dept. She replied "Unlawful
5 detainer." I left her and went to the lobby by the elevators.
6 I saw a young attorney who I had consulted on a big matter last
7 year. I had not gone to him about the eviction because I had
8 not yet paid him a fee for much work he had done. That was the
9 same situation I explained to my landlord all along. Money due
10 to me in a court order since 1969.... He asked what I was doing
11 there, I filled him in and mentioned I had not come to him seeing
12 I had not paid him and that I was waiting to meet a friend
13 before going up to Dept. P. He offered to drop in and see how
14 I was doing as he was going to be in Dept. D.

11 My friend arrived with two friends. We went right up to
12 the designated room and sat in the first row up front. I looked
13 at the clock as we sat down, it was five minutes to the hour of
14 10. Cases were being tried by the judge, they were mostly
15 driving under the influence of alcohol, seeing everyone had an
16 attorney, the tempo was rapid. About 10.15 the judge announced
17 a recess and my friend left to feed the meter. After he returned
18 the attorney came in and beckoned me to come out, my first words
19 as I reached outside were, "They have not called me as yet."

18 His look seemed to say "poor, poor fool," but in his soft
19 voice he said, "Maybe they called you outside here," "No, I
20 would have heard," I insisted. "Follow me" he said and I tried
21 to keep up with his long legs as he strode down to an inside
22 office. He introduced me to the man at a desk and requested
23 a search. It was then about 10.30 and I had long been defaulted.

23 The clerk whose charge it is to appoint the cases to the
24 different judges was rounded up, he stated that at 10 0'clock
25 he had come to the rails and called out for the people with 10
26 a.m. civil cases to follow him. My friend exploded, I never
saw or heard you and we were right up front at the rail. I
had seen him standing up under the judge's platform between the