MSS0093. Memphis Committee on Community Relation records finding aid
Memphis Committee on Community Relations records

Title: Memphis Committee on Community Relation records
Collection No: MSS.0093
Extent: 0.75 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1956-1969


Access: Open to all researchers.
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Administrative Information

Founded on January 26, 1959, the Memphis Committee on Community Relations was a moderate, interracial group of community leaders who volunteered together to address civil rights issues. Convened by its first Chairman, Attorney Lucius Burch, MCCR was composed of a prestigious group of Memphians, one third of whom were Black.

Included on the Board of Directors were the Reverend Blair Hunt, Msgr. Merlin Kearney, the Reverend J.A. McDaniel, the Reverend H.C. Nabrit, Dean William Sanders, the Reverend S.A. Owen, Dr. Paul Tudor Jones, Dr. R. Paul Caudill, the Reverend Alexander Gladney, the Reverend J.E. Robinson, Carl Carson, Lewis Donelson, the Reverend James Lawson, Rabbi James Wax, Dr. Hollis Price, the Reverend James Elder, Frances Coe, Lt. George W. Lee, the Reverend J.C. Mickle, Msgr. Joseph Leppert, Edmund Orgill, Arthur McCain, A.W. Willis, Dr. Vasco Smith, Harry Wellford, Lester Rosen, Jesse Turner; and the editors of both newspapers, Frank Ahlgren of the Commercial Appeal and Ed Meeman of the Memphis Press-Scimitar.

The group’s charter and constitution states that their purpose was to provide a meeting place for calm discussion and such responsible action as may be agreed upon to preserve order, under law, as interpreted by courts of competent jurisdiction and the peace, happiness, and continued progress of the great and growing City of Memphis and all its people. It was to work without publicity to gain its ends, convinced that quiet, behind-the-scenes work could prove that desegregation could take place without dire consequences. Once desegregation was established, the members of the committee believed there would be a precedent upon which an equitable future could be built.

In addition, MCCR tried to influence the City Commission to appoint some Blacks to city commissions and committees, and compiled a suggested list of qualified Blacks. MCCR tried to gain more jobs for Blacks, worked for their admission to private hospitals, and expressed concern about law enforcement and police brutality. During many instances, the committee worked alongside the Memphis, Tennessee, chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Scope and contents

Manuscript papers containing correspondence, news clippings, articles, minutes, speeches, etc. of the Memphis Committee on Community Relations. Also contains a folder on the Civic Research Committee and the Memphis NAACP Executive Secretary Reports 1967-1969.

Subject terms

Civil Rights.
Memphis Committee on Community Relations (Memphis, Tenn.)
Race relations in the United States.
# Inventory

## Box 1

### Folder

**Memphis Committee on Community Relations:**

2. Executive Committee, booklet, special report, 1968.

## Box 2


**Memphis Chapter, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People:**

16. Memphis Chapter, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, reports, letters, memo, and other papers, 1967.

**Civic Research Committee:**