
No on Proposition 14: California Fair Housing Initiative Collection

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Collection number: GTU 94-7-01

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Descriptive Summary

Title: No on Proposition 14: California Fair Housing Initiative collection

Dates: 1963-1964

Collection number: GTU 94-7-01

Creator: Conklin, George

Collection Size: 1 box, 1 folio

5 linear inches

Repository: The Graduate Theological Union. Library.

Berkeley, CA 94709

Abstract: Proposition 14, or the California Fair Housing initiative, became a focal point for the issue of racial discrimination and the civil rights movement in California in 1964. The collection contains political campaign material (pamphlets, brochures, newsletters, monographs, flyers, bumper stickers) directly related to Proposition 14 from church bodies and political organizations. Also included are materials on race relations and the civil rights movement throughout the United States.

Shelf location: 2/K/6

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

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Acquisition Information

Gift from George Conklin in 1977.

Historical Description

In June 1963, the California legislature passed AB 1240, the Rumford Act, a fair housing bill banning discrimination in the sale or rental of housing and to forbid lending institutions, mortgage holders, real estate brokers and others to practice discrimination in housing transactions. In April 1964, a "Realtor's Initiative", Proposition 14, was put on the state ballot. Its text stated that it was an initiative to prohibit the State from denying a person the right to rent or sell property "to any person as he chooses." In effect, the initiative would repeal the 1963 Rumford Act and amend the California constitution. Proposition 14, or the California Fair Housing initiative, became a focal point for the issue of racial discrimination and the

civil rights movement in California. Religious bodies, civic groups, and political organizations rallied to strong vocal positions either in opposition to or approval of the initiative.

Proposition 14 won overwhelmingly in the November 1964 election. In 1966 the California Supreme Court invalidated the amendment because it violated federal guarantees. The Rumford Act was reinstated. In 1967, the US Supreme Court agreed with the state Supreme Court. Subsequent efforts by Governor Ronald Reagan and members of the California legislature failed to replace or modify the Rumford act. Ultimately, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act) provided protection against discrimination, which reduced the importance of the California act. (Source: Lou Cannon, *Governor Reagan : His Rise to Power*. New York : PublicAffairs, 2003, 201-205.)

Scope and Content of Collection

George Conklin, the donor, was on the staff of the Northern California Congregational Conference during the years of the Proposition 14 campaign. The material is, in his words, "a collection of public and background materials from that campaign." He further makes the point that the campaign against Proposition 14 "was a first in Catholic-Protestant cooperation in California on social issues." (August 17, 1977 memo, George Conklin to Oscar Burdick, Collection file, GTU Archives Office.)

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Discrimination in housing--California

Race relations--Religious aspects--Christianity--History--20th Century

California--Race relations

United States--Race relations

Civil rights movements--United States--History--20th Century

Nonviolence--Religious aspects--United States--History--20th Century

Clergy--Political activity

Californians Against Proposition 14

box:folder 1:1	<i>The Story of the 1965 California Legislature 1965</i>
box:folder 1:2	California law n.d.
box:folder 1:3	<i>The Fight for Fair Housing, 127 Days of Struggle to Pass the Rumford Act ca. 1963-1964</i>
box:folder 1:4	"Realtor's Initiative Against Fair Housing", text and argument ca. 1963-1964
box:folder 1:5	San Francisco Conference on Religion and Race 9/1963
box:folder 1:6	Committee Against Housing Amendment, No on 14, Northern California ca. 1963-1964
box:folder 1:7	"A Manual for the Constitutional Amendment - NO! Campaign" ca. 1963-1964
box:folder 1:8	"Speakers Handbook for Opposition to the Segregation Amendment" ca. 1963-1964
box:folder 1:9	CREA Sponsored Amendment, Californians for Fair Housing Campaign Manual and Brochures ca. 1963-1964
box:folder 1:10	Sermons, addresses, and essays (continued in Folio 1) ca. 1963-1964
box:folder 1:11	"The Southern Christian Leadership Conference Story in Words and Pictures", Ed Clayton, Editor 1964
box:folder 1:12	<i>Cracking the Color Line, Non-violent Direct Action Methods of Eliminating Racial Discrimination" (CORE) [1960?]</i>
box:folder 1:13	"It is Time Now, Some Questions and Answers on the Civil Rights Bill" 1964
box:folder 1:14	"With Liberty and Justice for All, A Handbook for Church Leaders on the Racial Crises" n.d.
box:folder 1:15	"Toward a Witnessing Community, A Program to Meet the Crisis in Race Relations" n.d.
box:folder 1:16	"Absolute Discretion?" Selected Documents on Property Rights and Equal Protection of the Laws n.d.
box:folder 1:17	Radio broadcasts: KPFA, KCBS ca. 1963-1964
box:folder 1:18	News Articles (continued in Folio 1) ca. 1963-1964
box:folder 1:19	Misc. Newsletters with information on Prop. 14 ca. 1963-1964
box:folder 1:20	Campaign pamphlets and brochures from various church bodies and civic organizations n.d.
box:folder 1:21	Bumper stickers ca. 1963-1964
box:folder 1:22	<i>Newsweek</i>, whole issue 8/3/1964

Folio 2:1 **Final Votes on AB 1240 6/21/1963**
Folio 2:2 **Californians for Fair Housing, Northern California Headquarters, News, Nos. 1-3, 5-13**
 May-October 1964
Folio 2:3 **News Articles (continued in Box 1) ca. 1963-1964**
Folio 2:4 **Sermons and addresses (continued in Box 1) ca. 1963-1964**
Folio 2:5 **Press Releases: Casper Weinberger, Edmund G. Brown ca. 1963-1964**
Folio 2:6 ***New York Times Magazine*, whole issue 7/5/1964**