

RESOLUTION

THE FOLLOWING IS A RESOLUTION PASSED AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF LAWTON, ON AUGUST 12, 1966, at 8:32 PM. This resolution passed by a vote of 65 to 4, with 9 desiring not to vote;

This organization has devoted more than 800 hours in the past 28 days in an attempt to bring together all sides of factions seeking to pass, and or not to pass, a PUBLIC ACCOMADATIONS ORDINANCE. We did not support any group in writing this ordinance, but we were seeking to bring each group together for negotiations. In these efforts we found the following to exist:

- 1.. No one councilman speaks, with authority, on this issue for all councilmen, and perhaps this is as it should be.
- 2.. No one person speaks for the civil rights groups, with authority, and perhaps this is as it should be.
- 3.. With this lack of authority existing, on all sides, it is obvious that no progress whatsoever has been made, or will be made, on this issue, so long as this atmosphere exists.
- 4.. We have found on all sides of this issue, threats, intimidations, antagonists pouring salt on wounds, not to heal, but to be certain that there is some sort of disagreement going on at all times.

We respect the convictions, HONEST CONVICTIONS, of all persons, on all sides. We respect Mr. Ben Hutchens for his convictions, and his right to exercise and defend them.. We also believe in the constitutional right of assembly and those who assemble to assert their convictions IN A PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY FASHION. Dr. E. A. Owens, Rev. N. H. Jones, Rev. James Miller, and a few others are prime examples leading this peaceful assembly. THERE ARE OTHERS HOWEVER, WHOSE MOTIVES ARE QUESTIONABLE. WHO AND WHAT THEY SUPPORT IS CONFUSING. WHEN YOU ADVOCATE ASSEMBLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESTRUCTION, DIVISION OF CITIZENS, DISRUPTION OF NORMAL BUSINESS, AND PERSONAL THREATS AND INTIMIDATION TO ANY AND ALL PERSONS WHO STAND IN YOUR WAY, THEN THIS IS NOT PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND IS INTOLERABLE.

We stated in the first paragraph that no support of a particular ordinance was offered during efforts to bring these factions together, however, we now reverse our course and we support COMPLETELY AND WITHOUT RESERVATION, THE POLICIES OF THE LAWTON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, CHAIRMAN, DR. O. L. PARSONS. WE SUPPORT FULLY THE SUGGEST ORDINANCE RECOMMENDED BY THIS COMMISSION. We also believe that the time to act is NOW, and we intend to ask that each citizen let their views be known, that each Civic group, Church group, and other groups speak out, and let their position be known. This is the only way to clear the air of charges and counter charges, and show their support for a United City, a city that can disagree, but not fall apart for lack of action. A City that although all citizens do not agree, they respect the rights of others to give their thoughts or opinions, and not become enemies, but in the end join together to strengthen a strong bond that already exists, and move forward together to assure the continued growth and progress of Oklahoma's Finest City.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF LAWTON  
JAMES B. RILEY, INTERIM MANAGER.

*James B. Riley*

NEWS RELEASE B-3341.

8-14-66

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