Plumbers face EEOC discrimination charges

Plumbers Local 38 and the plumbing industry labor-management apprenticeship committee are targets of federal discrimination charges, it was disclosed last week.

Other unions in the Bay Area and elsewhere face similar accusations, it was learned. Government spokesmen, bound by a rule of confidentiality, however, would not name them.

The complaint against the plumbers was filed January 17 by Samuel C. Jackson, a member of the national Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and amended April 7 to include the committee.

IT HAD BEEN kept secret under the confidentiality rule. It came to light when the union and the committee asked a federal court to quash a regional EEOC demand for testimony and documents to aid an investigation.

The complaint relied in great part, it was understood, on the assertion that minority membership was at wide variance with the over-all population pattern.

Local 38, which had vigorously denied discrimination at a recent U.S. Civil Rights Commission hearing here, based part of its counter-action on the charge that the request for information came without service on it of the discrimination complaint.

IT ALSO declared the charges were "too broad and too vague," with no specifics.

Reliance on the membership versus community pattern to support a discrimination charge appeared to constitute a test case. The gambit had not previously been used, it was understood.

Local 38's lawyer said a major objective of the union's suit was to overturn government tactics of investigating before the charge was formally served—a

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Plumbers battle Federal commission charges of race discrimination

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JACKSON CHARGED there "is reasonable cause to believe" that both accused parties have "discriminatorily restricted union membership of minority group members because of race or national origin."

He said the offenses occurred "historically and subsequent to the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

The union and the committee also cited a legal requirement that no discrimination charge can be retroactive more than 90 days before its filing. They wanted specifics of what offenses they were accused of during the 90 days.

THEY ALSO pointed out that EEOC must refer the charges to relevant state agencies for action or waiver of action within 30 days. EEOC said the state FEPC had waived action.

Another union-apprenticeship committee objection was based on confidentiality. While EEOC officials cannot divulge details of the case, the union said, the federal agency had offered to open files to FEPC and other agencies not so restricted.

The regional EEOC is charged with investigating Jackson's complaint and reporting facts, conclusions and recommendations to the national EEOC.

WITH JACKSON barred from taking part, the national EEOC then will determine whether there is cause for action.

If it finds cause, the regional EEOC then must attempt conciliation for 30 days.

If it fails, the law then allows any aggrieved party to file for an injunction to forbid discrimination or order affirmative action which could include hiring.

Safe for kids now

CENTREVILLE, Mich., (PAI) — The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America has brought cheer to the diaper set by winning a 2-1 majority in a representation election at the Doctor Denton Sleeping Garment Mills here.

Dr. Denton is the brand name of an old, well-known sleeper for children, but has never been organized.