

U.S. Aid to Refugees, Minorities Contrasted

Congressman Says Blacks, Latins Should Get Same Attention as Cubans, Hungarians

BY JACK JONES

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The federal government should give the problems of black people and Mexican-Americans the same attention it has given those of Cuban and Hungarian refugees, a Missouri congressman said here Thursday.

Rep. William Clay (D-Mo.) was one of three members of a House subcommittee on labor opening two days of hearings in Compton City Hall on the subject of equal employment and whether more teeth should be put in enforcement provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Clay suggested to one witness, Albert Lugo, of the Neighborhood Adult Participation Project (NAPP), that the government sees the English-language difficulties of Mexican-Americans as a barrier to employment, but managed to solve the problem with "hundreds of thousands of Hungarian refugees."

Aid to Cubans

Clay, who is black, also said the federal government is spending tremendous sums (\$112 million this year) to bring to this country and help Cuban refugees who "at this point, 11 years after the revolution, are simply the people Castro doesn't want to take care of."

He added, "I think if we can treat Cubans like that, we ought to be able to treat some of the other minorities the same way."

Rep. August F. Hawkins (D-Los Angeles) chaired Thursday's opening session and asked Lugo about the recent testimony of Los Angeles Police Sgt. Robert J. Thoms before a U.S. Senate internal security subcommittee which linked various community action programs—at least by implication—with violent and subversive groups.

Lugo said the inclusion

of the NAPP program (an antipoverty project involving neighborhood organization and New Careers for poverty-area residents) in the Thoms testimony "hurt" him.

"I didn't feel I was doing anything subversive," Lugo said. "I felt I was doing a job. You look around and see so many things wrong. You try to correct them and they say you're subversive."

Other witnesses Thursday included Compton Mayor Douglas Dollarhide, who explained the need for more opportunity for black people in the Los Angeles area.

He agreed with a proposal to extend Equal Employment Opportunity Commission coverage under the 1964 Civil Rights Act to federal, state and local government employes, noting that he had worked 18 years for the federal government and had seen about as much discrimination there as in industry.

Aerospace Firms

Another witness Thursday was Jerome Lamathe, United Automobile Workers Local 887 staff member who complained that North American-Rockwell Corp. has not made a strong effort to give minorities open chances at better jobs.

At that company and at many others in the aerospace industry, he charged, "minorities are hired strictly for their statistical value in obtaining government contracts."

North American-Rockwell spokesmen said the company had no comment.

Sitting in on the hearing Thursday was Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio.) Rep. John H. Dent (D-Pa.) is the subcommittee chairman.