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# *information*

VOL. 1, No. 3

August, 1956

## NEIGHBORHOOD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCES, "NEC"

Supplementing its advisory council program, the Fair Employment Practices Commission at its August meeting approved two new lines of action in its educational campaign to promote equal economic opportunities in Michigan. It scheduled the first of what may become a series of neighborhood conferences in Detroit, and it authorized a pilot vocational development project.

The Neighborhood Employment Conference (NEC), scheduled for Detroit's west side in October, will feature experts on job trends, vocational training and guidance, apprenticeship programs and personnel. Prominent on the conference agenda will be a discussion of the role of parents, church and school advisors in motivating young people to develop their capabilities, and the place of neighborhood groups in fostering the aims of the Michigan FEP Act.

The NEC is designed to bring up-to-date economic "facts of life" to citizens in their own neighborhoods. Ministers, lay church leaders, fraternal and civic betterment associations, PTA's, neighborhood and women's club leaders will be invited to participate in the planning of the conference sessions. Representatives from industry, commerce, labor, the schools, employment services and community relations organizations will be asked to serve as resource leaders.

The pilot vocational development project is both an outgrowth and a follow-up of the survey observations reported in last month's bulletin. Recognizing that employment opportunities on merit are expanding and will continue to expand as Michigan's Fair Employment program goes forward, the Commission has begun a more detailed examination of the extent to which existing vocational development channels are being utilized by all groups. The study is designed to determine the degree to which environmental blocks affect vocational goals, and how social relationships shape employment opportunities.

## CLAIMS

Its August 10 meeting saw the Commission take action on an additional forty cases. It accepted ten adjustments which had been