

# Clerics Plan Fight for Rumford Act

## Church Leaders in Glendale and Burbank Organize

A group of clergymen and church lay leaders are organizing the Glendale-Burbank Interfaith Council for Fair Housing to fight the statewide movement of realtor groups to nullify the Rumford Fair Housing Act.

A breakfast meeting for the purpose of organizing the council will be held Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 a.m. in the First Congregational Church in Glendale.

"We are contacting more than 100 churches of all faiths in Glendale and Burbank, urging them to send lay and ministerial representatives to the meeting," said the Rev. Kenneth D. Moore, chairman pro tem of the council.

### Nucleus of 15

Already 15 clergymen and laymen of the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant faiths have formed a nucleus for the council. They represent nine churches in Burbank and Glendale.

The group met last week at the North Glendale Church to explore the possibilities of forming the council. Speaking at the meeting were Floyd Zerbe, chairman of the San Fernando Valley Interfaith Council for Fair Housing, and Dr. J. Walter Cobb, consultant for the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations.

Mr. Moore, pastor of the Burbank First Methodist Church and chairman of the Burbank Human Relations Council, said the group fully supports the Rumford Act and plans to actively campaign for it.

### 'Need for Freedom'

The minister said the group outlined "need for freedom" reasons for supporting the act which makes it illegal to refuse to rent, sell or lease housing to persons because of race, religion or national origin.

He listed the group's reasons as: 1. The individual's need of freedom to be fair in dealings with others. 2. The need for freedom to acquire property without regard to race, creed or national origin. 3. The need for freedom for intergroup experiences.

Mr. Moore also pointed out that the council would be against the realtors' initiative for a state constitutional amendment to guarantee the right of any property owner to refuse to rent, lease or sell his property to any persons he chooses. The realtors are collecting signatures to place the amendment on the November ballot. If passed,

**Please Turn to Pg. 16, Col. 3**

### Continued from First Page

it could in effect nullify the Rumford Act.

Items of business scheduled for the organizational meeting of the council, Mr. Moore said, would include election of officers and the consideration of methods for campaigning in support of the Rumford Act.

Listed by Mr. Moore as organizers of the council are the Rev. Norman Morford, Toluca Lake Community Methodist Church; Ray Cormier, St. Robert Bellarmine Church; the Revs. William Gregory and Robert Bench, Glendale First Congregational Church; the Rev. Lee Kliever and Jim Patten, Grandview Presbyterian Church; the Rev. J. F. Belton, North Glendale Methodist Church; the Rev. William Chappell, Magnolia Park Methodist Church; the Rev. R. K. Goodwin and David A. Rice, Westminster Presbyterian Church; Rabbi Henry Katz, Temple Sinai, and Leonard Penn and the Rev. C. A. McClain Jr., Burbank First Methodist Church.