

Discrimination In Reverse

Black Studies Said Not 'Relevant'

BOISE (AP) — The Idaho Commission on Human Rights Friday heard that black studies courses at the two state universities and Boise State College were not "relevant".

Richard Cooke, president of the commission, said accusations against the black studies were "offhand" and that no formal complaints had been made.

They charged, he said, that the courses were discrimination in reverse, "were not relevant and gave the wrong picture of the black man and his history."

Cooke emphasized that the

commission had no opinion "one way or another" on the black studies, but said "they might be utilized by the commission." He said Idaho State University, the University of Idaho and Boise State would be asked to detail their black studies courses.

Mrs. John G. Walters, president of the State Board of Education, and R. L. Hoffman of Boise, representing the School Trustees Association, were asked to provide for the commission all available information on releasing of students from public schools for religious training.

Cooke said the commission had taken no position on such release time, but wanted to obtain the facts.

Mrs. Walters said the board had established its policy in 1927 to allow release time for religious education, and that such time must be authorized first by the local school district and the instructor must be certified as a teacher.

She said Boise's schools do not grant release time for students.

Robert Steiling of Idaho Falls, vice president of the commis-

sion, said the Utah attorney general had said release time was unconstitutional.

A black Boisean, Philemon Watts, accused the commission of failure to investigate alleged discrimination by a city prosecutor against a Mexican-American woman who has since "vanished."

Watts said Mrs. Dominga Rangle was denied the right to make a complaint against a neighbor man who had allegedly thrown hot coffee on the woman's 15-year-old daughter and grand-

daughter.

The commission asked Watts to file a formal complaint in which the allegations were contained, and said it would investigate the case.

Since the incident, Watts said, Mrs. Rangle took her children and "vanished", leaving clothes and furnishings behind.

Stanley Crow of Boise proposed legislation empowering the commission to grant immunity from criminal prosecution in order to get persons to testify as to discriminatory practices.