

## Omaha School Official to Join Equal Opportunity - Omaha World-Herald (NE) - July 26, 1996 - page 13sf

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Gov. Nelson has appointed Melvin Clancy, director of elementary education for the Omaha School District, to a vacancy on the troubled Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission.

Clancy, 47, will serve out the remaining two - year term of former Chairwoman Deb Gilg of Ogallala. She resigned last month, saying the commission was destroying itself with infighting.

The commission, charged with investigating and trying to resolve complaints of discrimination, has been the center of turmoil and lawsuits for several years.

In January 1995, a legislative committee recommended changes intended to enable the commission and its administrative agency to deal more quickly with complaints.

Later that same year, two former investigators filed suit saying they were wrongly fired for cooperating with the legislative committee.

The commission has lost two executive directors. One, Lawrence Myers, resigned in the face of allegations that he'd had a personal relationship with a female subordinate, was rehired when a severance plan fell through, then resigned again under fire.

In June, Myers' replacement, Roberta Stick of Lincoln, abruptly announced her resignation, which was followed by Ms. Gilg's resignation a week later.

Clancy acknowledged that he might have accepted a difficult task. He said he believed he could help the agency get back on track with its mission.

Clancy, who is black, said he has been involved with many of those in Omaha's black community who had been among the most vocal critics of Ms. Stick.

"I'm pretty well known in the African - American community," Clancy said. "I'm active and I'm pretty well respected. Maybe the community will give me the benefit of the doubt that I will do what's right."

Clancy worked his way up in the Omaha district after being hired as a intermediate - grade teacher at **Howard Kennedy Elementary** in 1972. A 1967 graduate of Carver High School in Birmingham, Ala., he holds a bachelor's degree in history from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, and a master's degree in education from Southern University in Baton Rouge, La. He is pursuing a doctoral degree in education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

He and his wife, Ann, have four children ranging in age from 22 to 10.

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