Teacher here says Berkeley schools won’t hire whites

By LARI BLumenfeld
1-G Staff Writer

All her adult life, Beatrice Tobias has fought for civil rights causes.

And now, she says, she is being denied a job—for which she is eminently qualified—as a school teacher in the Berkeley public schools.

Because she is white.

"Berkeley has always been an indicator today of what will happen elsewhere tomorrow," she said, "and if this discrimination continues against qualified teachers because they are white, I foresee the end of decent public education."

M iss Tobias, who has lived here four years and first applied for a teaching job in 1970, is not the type to let the blade applicant be off the problem. She's handed an application with fought too many battles as a great and woman, activist in the civil rights field, mostly on behalf of blacks and women.

The Jewish woman said she again applied for a teaching job in 1972 and followed up the application with a personal appearance during which she met Dr. Richard Foster, superintendent of schools.

"He told me that for us to hire a white teacher we must show cause," Miss Tobias said.

In disbelief she sat in the application office for some time, and this is what she said occurred: When a Caucasian sought an application as a teacher—from a black secretary—the white was told there were no openings.

CONVERSELY, when a Negro asked for an application, the black applicant was handed an application with great aplomb, she said.

"Discrimination is discrimination," Miss Tobias said, "and it should make no difference what your color or sex as long as you qualify for the job."

She said she was allowed to apply for a job at Berkeley High School where there were two openings for a biology teacher.

She was interviewed by Principal Clifford Wong, she said, and after the interview "I felt just like blacks must have felt 20 years ago in the south when they tried to apply for jobs."

THE POSITIONS were filled with two Orientals, she said, one with no teaching experience and the other with (Turn to Page 2, Col. 3)
TEACHER

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14 years of experience.

Miss Tobias said that her emotional reason for not seeking to be re-elected from the PG&E, but then she does not know if the problem will find any solutions in the complaints, she said.

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She believes it is of great importance for school board candidates to indicate their positions on discriminatory hiring, whether the discrimination is against black, or white, or whatever color.

"The children suffer the most when qualified teachers are not hired," she said, "and if the children suffer the community is suffering." Miss Tobias said she was not interested in teaching elsewhere. "I love Berkeley and if I have to I'll right to stay here."

I'm not going to sit back and see the white face deny its right to work.

MARIJUANA

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The vote listed instead the "yes" for the Berkeley candidate. The vote is a "yes" or "no" vote on the Berkeley measure. The vote will be held on April 12 in special ceremonies at which the city will receive a national charter and a charter from the Institute of Lifet ime Learning.

The program will be held at the Madison Street Temple, 1453 Madison St., Oakland.

The Oakland charter was organized in November 1971 and has a membership of some 1,000 persons.

It is the first chapter in California, to be awarded an Institute of Lifetime Charter, according to Leroy E. Hixson, dean of the institute, who will attend the ceremonies.

Mr. and Mrs. Vera Soderstrom, AARP state director, will present the certainties to John C. Winters, chapter president, and Ralph H. Fitch, chairman of the Institute Advisory Committee.

All persons over 55 years of age are eligible to join the organization.

TREES

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will increase its firefighting capability in the area.

Also the state will assign National Guard units and equipment to augment the work of local agencies and volunteers in removing dead trees and brush from the area.

Final details of the agreement were concluded at a meeting Wednesday of state and local officials, including Mayors John Reading of Oakland and Warren Widener of Berkeley.

Solo performance

Greenbloom Ann Williams, a lyric soprano, will sing in concert Sunday afternoon.