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**"'Selma of the North': The Fight for Open Housing in Milwaukee" by Patrick D. Jones**

**Thesis**: Milwaukee's open housing campaign challenges the traditional framework for understanding the civil rights era.

**Essential Question**: Why was Milwaukee called the "Selma of the North?"

Phenomenal introduction that could be **used as a set** to shatter "Myth of Southern Exceptionalism."

        Crossing the 16th St. viaduct " the longest bridge in the World"- graphic detail pages 17-18

**Black Milwaukee**

        Impact of WWII- 1945-1970 - **700**% increase in Milwaukee's black population - 2%-15%

        Establishing the color line - racially restrictive covenants, redlining, block-busting, steering -

                tactics used by real estate, financing and insurance industries

                Residents circulate petitions, threat, intimidate, violence or move

        98% live in central city- largest concentration in nation

                3% own homes- lowest rate of black ownership

        Effects of urban renewal, highway construction displaces hundreds

        high unemployment, poverty rates, poor housing , small middle class, negligible

                representation, political leaders consistently resist change

**Politics of Open Housing**

        LBJ can't get 1966 Act passed

        MLK's efforts in Chicago fail

        Milwaukee campaign

               Small efforts in  Early 1960s- nothing!

                White resistance- "property rights p. 18

        Momentum nationally and locally due to violence in 1966 and 1967. Issues: unemployment,

                segregated public schools, police brutality

        Father Groppi- went to Selma and learned nonviolent tactics and need for "creative tension"

**Milwaukee Open Housing Campaign**

        Direct Action Campaign -p. 19 force passage of open housing ordinance

        Sudden attention due to clashes between young blacks and police

        March to air it out to the people through the media

        Resemblance to Selma using the 16th ST. viaduct

        Last chance for an integrated, nonviolent, church-based movement

        March 200 consecutive nights!  late summer 1967- late spring 1968

        Tactics- Church is headquarters, Meet the Press, "Black Christmas", Mondale and Brooks

                seek legislation,

        White resistance!!!! Common Council, John Birch Society, KKK, white propaganda, commies

        Unusual white solidarity!

**Victory?**

        Why?  Toll on Tourism and commerce - compromise needed, liberal on Common Council,

                Dr. King's assassination

        Passage of 1968 law and Milwaukee  ordinance

        Conclusions

                Key role of housing

                Role of Milwaukee similar to Birmingham and Selma

                Furthers nationalization of civil rights movement

                RACE and ECONOMIC INEQUALITY DEEPLY IMBEDDED IN URBAN GEOGRAPHY!!

                        Circumstances bleak,

                        Ordinances and legislation moot when deindustrialization and white flight occur

                        New Means of policing the color line have emerged in housing, banking, finance,

                                real estate and insurance

                        Persistent racialized poverty!!- limits ability to move to new areas!

                        in a post-racial society - whites still flee

                        INSIDIOUS PERSISTENCE OF WHITE SUPREMACY AND RACIAL INEQUALITY