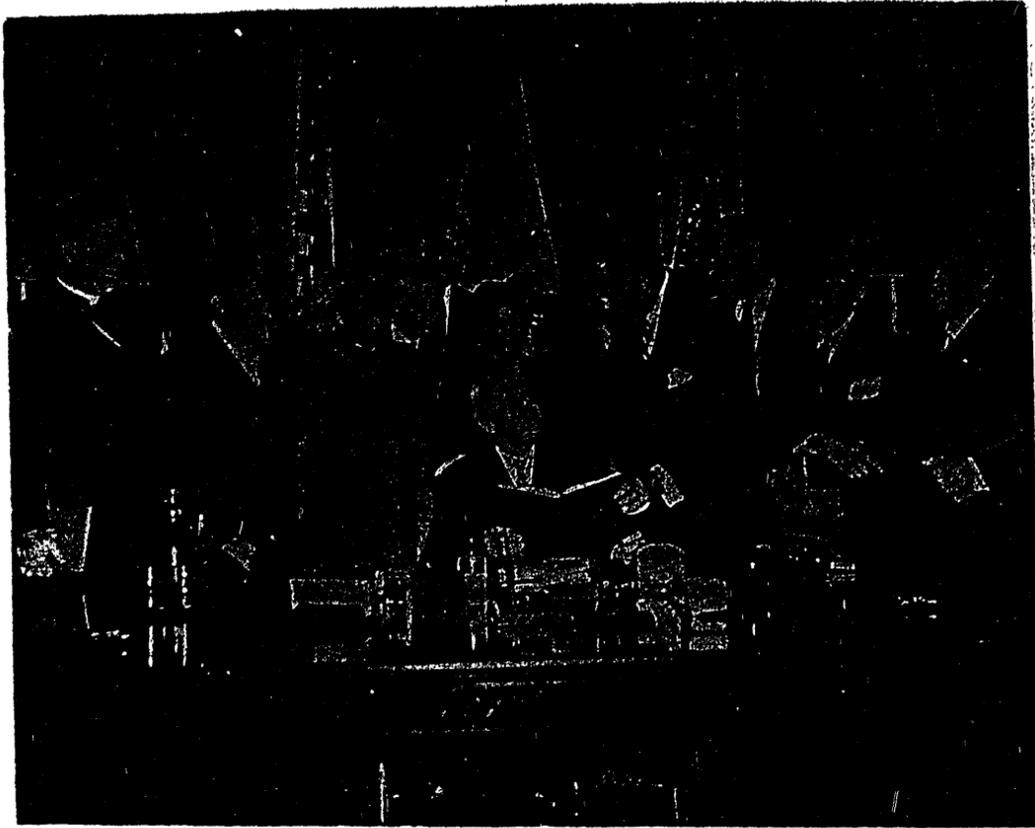


WH Files-Civil Rights-pamphlets (re gen-  
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*To Secure These Rights*

A brief summary of  
THE REPORT  
OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE  
ON CIVIL RIGHTS



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## A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM IN THE UNITED STATES

On December 5, 1946, President Truman called on fifteen prominent citizens to serve as his special Committee on Civil Rights.\* For almost a year, the President's Committee gathered evidence on the condition of civil rights throughout the nation, holding hearings and preparing the Report which was submitted to President Truman on October 29, 1947.

That Report, with its hard-hitting account of abuses still existing and its thoughtful proposals to protect our civil rights, is an epoch-making document.

In approaching its survey, the Committee took as a basic premise the importance of the individual in our American heritage. Since all men are created equal as well as free, it is our obligation to build social institutions that will insure equality of opportunity.

With this in mind, the Committee posed these questions:

- 1) What is the civil rights goal of the American people?
- 2) In what ways does our record fall short of the goal?
- 3) What is the government's responsibility for the achievement of the goal?
- 4) What steps does the nation now need to reach the goal?

### \*MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

CHARLES E. WILSON, *President of General Electric.*  
MISS SADIE T. ALEXANDER, *Assistant City Solicitor of Philadelphia.*  
JAMES B. CAREY, *Secretary Treasurer of the CIO.*  
JOHN S. DICKEY, *President of Dartmouth College.*  
MORRIS L. ERNST, *New York attorney and author.*  
RABBI ROLAND B. GITTELSON, *former Marine Chaplain.*  
FRANK P. GRAHAM, *President of the University of North Carolina.*  
THE MOST REVEREND FRANCIS J. HAAS, *Bishop of the Grand Rapids Diocese.*  
CHARLES LUCKMAN, *President of Lever Brothers and Chairman, President's Citizens' Food Committee.*  
FRANCIS P. MATTHEWS, *former Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus.*  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, JR., *New York Attorney.*  
THE RIGHT REVEREND HENRY KNOX SHERRILL, *Presiding Bishop, Protestant Episcopal Church.*  
BORIS SHISKIN, *Economist of the American Federation of Labor.*  
DOROTHY TILLY, *Secretary of the Department of Social Relations, Woman's Society of Christian Services, the Methodist Church.*  
CHANNING TOBIAS, *Director of the Phelps-Stokes Fund.*

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## A REPORT THAT TAKES ITS PLACE IN HISTORY

Twice before in American history, the nation has reviewed the status of its civil rights. The first scrutiny, when the new Constitution was ratified in 1791, resulted in the first ten amendments—the Bill of Rights. Again, during the Civil War, when it became clear that we could not survive “half-slave, half-free,” civil rights moved forward with the Emancipation Proclamation and three new amendments to the Constitution.

Today there are compelling reasons for a third re-examination of our civil rights—to eliminate abuses arising from discrimination on the grounds of race, creed, national origin or social and economic status:

- 1) A moral reason—the United States can no longer countenance these burdens on our common conscience, these inroads on its moral fibre.
- 2) An economic reason—the United States can no longer afford this heavy drain upon its human wealth, its national competence.
- 3) An international reason—the United States is not so strong, the final triumph of the democratic idea is not so inevitable that we can ignore what the world thinks of us or our record.

### FOUR ESSENTIAL RIGHTS

The President's Committee sets forth four basic rights essential to the well-being of the individual:

- 1) The Right to Safety and Security of Person
- 2) The Right to Citizenship and its Privileges
- 3) The Right to Freedom of Conscience and Expression
- 4) The Right to Equality of Opportunity

#### 1. The right to safety and security of person

Freedom exists only where everyone is secure against bondage, lawless violence, and arbitrary arrest and punishment. Where individuals or mobs take the law in their own hands, where justice is unequal, no man is safe.

The Committee found that many Americans still live in fear of mob violence and brutal treatment by police officers.

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Occasionally involuntary servitude crops up in some parts of our country.

#### The Committee Recommends

- 1) Strengthening of the Civil Rights Sections of the United States Code to define liability for violations of civil rights and to impose additional penalties providing specific punishment for police brutality and related crimes.
- 2) Enactment of legislation to define and outlaw lynching and to impose severe penalties upon guilty private persons and police officials.
- 3) Enactment of a new criminal statute broadly defining "involuntary servitude" under the 13th Amendment to include any sort of bondage by private persons.
- 4) Creation of special safeguards to protect racial or ethnic groups of people who may be subject to evacuation or detention in times of national emergency.

### II. The right to citizenship and its privileges

In a democracy, every citizen must have an equal voice in government. Citizenship must not be withheld because of color, creed or national origin. All able-bodied citizens must enjoy the right to serve their country in times of war.

The Report finds that the Right to Citizenship and its Privileges is often violated in some localities. Particularly glaring is the denial of voting privileges to Negroes through intimidation, "white primaries," variable qualification standards, poll taxes and other methods of disenfranchisement. Other abuses include the denial of suffrage to residents of Washington, D. C., and to Indians in New Mexico and Arizona; denial of citizenship to Japanese and Korean immigrants; and withholding of citizenship from nationals in Guam and Samoa. Racial discrimination in the armed forces is also found to violate the Rights to Citizenship and Its Privileges.

#### The Committee Recommends

- 1) State and Federal anti-poll tax legislation.
- 2) Federal legislation protecting the right to vote in Federal and state primaries and elections.

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3) Legislation providing self-government and the right to vote to residents of Washington, D. C.

4) Modification of Federal naturalization laws to permit the granting of citizenship without regard to race, color or national origin.

5) Repeal of state laws discriminating against aliens now ineligible for citizenship because of race or national origin.

6) Federal legislation granting citizenship to nationals of Guam and American Samoa.

7) Federal legislation to eliminate discrimination and segregation in the armed services.

### III. The right to freedom of conscience and expression

A free society is based on the ability of the people to make sound judgments. But such judgments are possible only where there is access to all viewpoints. Freedom of expression may be curbed only where there is clear and present danger to the well-being of society.

Our forefathers fought for the right to worship God according to the varied dictates of conscience. Complete religious liberty has been accepted as an essential freedom ever since our Bill of Rights was adopted.

The President's Committee reports that our Right to Freedom of Conscience and Expression is relatively secure. It believes, however, that there is an indirect threat to freedom of opinion in our treatment of dissident groups such as American communists and American fascists. The Report, while condemning the activities of communists and fascists, warns that in our present alertness against the dangers of communism and fascism alike, we must not lose our good judgment and respect for freedom of expression. Great caution is urged with regard to the "loyalty program" in civil service. The Committee recognizes the need for investigating Federal personnel but feels that the Federal government must adequately protect the civil rights of its employees.

#### The Committee Recommends

- 1) Action by Congress and the Executive clarifying loyalty obligations of Federal employees and establishing standards and

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procedures whereby civil rights of public workers may be scrupulously maintained.

2) Federal and state legislation requiring the registration of groups which influence public opinion and the disclosure of pertinent information to make it more difficult for subversive organizations to hide their real identities.

#### IV. The right to equality of opportunity

Full citizenship entitles all Americans, regardless of race, creed or national origin, to equality of opportunity—in securing useful employment, in enjoying equal access to education, housing, health and recreation services, transportation and other public and semi-public facilities.

The Committee found considerable evidence that opportunities in these fields too often depend upon race, religion, national origin or social status. The Report denounces the "separate but equal" policy, widely practiced in certain states. It finds that wherever segregated facilities exist they are far from equal and serve to perpetuate discrimination and promote social antagonisms. The Report deplors conditions in Washington, D. C., where racial segregation and discrimination discredit the Nation's Capital in the eyes of the world.

##### The Committee Recommends

- 1) Elimination of segregation, based on race, creed or national origin, from American life.
- 2) Legislation by Congress making all Federal grants-in-aid and other forms of Federal assistance contingent on the absence of discrimination and segregation.
- 3) Federal and state Fair Employment Practices legislation and Presidential mandate against discrimination in government employment.
- 4) State Fair Educational Practices legislation prohibiting discrimination in schools and colleges.
- 5) State laws outlawing agreements that restrict sale or rental of housing accommodations to members of certain racial and religious groups.
- 6) Intervention by the Department of Justice in court cases involving restrictive covenants.

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7) State Fair Health Practices legislation forbidding discrimination and segregation in operation of public and private health facilities.

8) Federal legislation prohibiting discrimination and segregation in interstate transportation and corresponding state laws covering intrastate transportation.

9) State laws guaranteeing equal access to places of public accommodation.

10) Legislation ending segregation and discrimination in Washington, D. C. and in the Panama Canal Zone.

#### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to legislative measures with regard to each of the Four Essential Rights, the Committee recommends the strengthening of Federal and state civil rights machinery through:

- 1) Reorganization of the Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice, giving it the status of a full division, establishing regional offices and increasing appropriations to cover research and more thorough investigation.
- 2) Establishment, within the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of a special unit of investigators trained in civil rights work.
- 3) Establishment of a permanent Commission on Civil Rights in the Executive Office of the President and of a Joint Standing Committee on Civil Rights in Congress. The Commission would serve as a clearing house, coordinating research and planning programs; carry out surveys and issue reports dealing with civil rights; and be charged with the continuous appraisal of the civil rights status of the nation. It should be authorized to call on any agency of the Executive Branch for assistance and should work closely with the Congressional Standing Committee.
- 4) Establishment of state agencies paralleling Federal machinery, including law enforcement agencies and state Commissions on Civil Rights.

#### CLIMATE OF OPINION

Finally, the President's Committee urges a long-range campaign of public education to inform the people of the rights to which they are entitled and which they owe to one another, thus fostering a climate of opinion favorable to the full protection of civil rights.

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FROM PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S SPECIAL MESSAGE  
TO CONGRESS, FEBRUARY 1, 1948

The Federal government has a clear duty to see that constitutional guaranties of individual liberties and of equal protection under the laws are not denied or abridged anywhere in our union.

I recommend, therefore, that the Congress enact legislation at this session directed toward the following specific objectives:

1. Establishing a permanent commission on civil rights, a joint Congressional committee on civil rights, and a Civil Rights Division in the Department of Justice.
2. Strengthening existing civil rights statutes.
3. Providing Federal protection against lynching.
4. Protecting more adequately the right to vote.
5. Establishing a Fair Employment Practice Commission to prevent unfair discrimination in employment.
6. Prohibiting discrimination in interstate transportation facilities.
7. Providing home-rule and suffrage in Presidential elections for the residents of the District of Columbia.
8. Providing statehood for Hawaii and Alaska and a greater measure of self-government for our island possessions.
9. Equalizing the opportunities for residents of the United States to become naturalized citizens.
10. Settling the evacuation claims of Japanese-Americans.

We know the way. We need only the will.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

*The full text of TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS may be had at \$1.00 from the Government Printing Office or your neighborhood book shop.*

FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SUMMARY, WRITE TO

*Community Relations Service*

386 FOURTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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American Council on Race Relations  
32 West Randolph Street  
Chicago 1, Illinois

RELEASE NO. 34

SUBJECT: President's Committee on Civil Rights Report: Distribution and Implementation

Efforts to facilitate coordinated plans for a wide distribution of the findings and for the most effective and economical implementation of the recommendations of the President's Committee on Civil Rights' report, "To Secure These Rights", have been initiated and a number of first steps agreed upon. This action was taken at a special meeting of national, state and local official and civic race relations and minority group agencies at the Conference on Local Race Relations and Minority Group Problems in Chicago, on November 16, 1947. At the meeting it was understood that interagency clearance and coordination of the several separate plans was most desirable and essential, leaving each agency free, of course, to develop its own internal plans of distribution within and action through its own membership or constituency. All agencies attending agreed to keep the American Council on Race Relations currently informed of their developing plans and activities in order to effect interagency clearance. ACRR in turn will disseminate reports of such plans to agencies concerned.

A. CURRENT PLANS OF AGENCIES:

The following descriptions of plans include only those preliminary plans known to the agency representatives at the time of the meeting. Supplementary information in more detail will be supplied as it is made available.

President's Committee on Civil Rights: It is understood that in addition to the first government printing which has been exhausted, two new editions of 50,000 each (not, however, carrying the significant government seal) are being published by Simon and Schuster, Inc.. A member of the committee's staff is directing the preparation of a condensed version of the report. Plans have been developed

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for a subsidized printing of 300,000 copies of this condensed version for popular consumption subsequent to sale of the complete editions.

Anti-Defamation League and American Jewish Committee: The ADL and AJC distributed copies to their field offices, to Jewish Community Relations Councils in 24 cities, and to other key individuals in ADL and AJC. In addition, 2,000 copies, with ADL endorsement have been sent to 2,000 chapters of B'nai B'rith. On December 3-5 the Report will be the subject of a community relations conference in Pittsburgh.

American Jewish Congress: Plans involve community and state-wide study of the findings of the Report and support of its recommendations which have been abstracted. The Committee on Law and Social Action offered to assist other agencies in the drafting of legislation to implement the recommendations of the Report.

American Council on Race Relations: In addition to its service as an interagency clearing house in plans, the ACRR:

1. Circulated an excerpted version of the report, emphasizing the recommendations, to the 150 agency representatives at the National Conference on Local Race Relations and Minority Group Problems on November 14-16.
2. Will publish a condensed version of "To Secure These Rights" in its December issue of Report.
3. Implement the plans of other agencies as requested (see action outlined below).

Committee to Abolish Discrimination (C.I.O.): This Committee advises that they plan to take the following action:

1. Distribute 10,000 copies of the complete text to key leaders within the C.I.O.
2. Prepare a poster campaign involving a poster each month starting in January for distribution to all C.I.O. locals.
3. Prepare and distribute discussion kits for local leaders.

4. Plan a film strip with sound for those local units with film equipment.
5. Plan a national conference of C.I.O. unions and C.I.O. Industrial Union Council Committees to Abolish Discrimination in Cleveland in February.

Jewish Labor Committee: In addition to distribution of copies of the Report to its membership, the J.L.C. plans to conduct training courses in cooperation with union groups using "To Secure These Rights" material.

National Association of Intergroup Relations Officials: Condensed versions of the Report have been circulated to its membership. The secretariat of the Association plans to work in close cooperation with the program developed by the American Council on Race Relations for the implementation of the Report, on the state and local level.

National Urban League: A survey in Montclair, New Jersey has been initiated to compare existing race relations conditions in that city to the findings and recommendations of the Report; this type of survey may be extended to other areas. A comic book series on the Report similar to the N.U.L. "hero" series is contemplated.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: (Mr. Walter White who was unable to stay over for the meeting) reported that steps to secure continuation of governmental interest in and implementation of the Committee's report had already been taken and would be followed up. A concerted national effort through public and private agencies and organizations to disseminate, interpret and secure action on the Report is one of the great opportunities and challenges confronting those who seek to improve race relations and civil rights in the U. S. today.

Japanese American Citizens League: JACL has already sent copies to its regional offices, and is now in process of distributing other copies to its 53 chapters throughout the country.

Publishers

New York P.M. published a Sunday supplement (November 2) which included all but the introduction of the Report, "To Secure These Rights".

Survey Associates (George Britt, Managing Editor of Survey Graphic) has advised that the December issue of Survey Graphic will carry an article on the subject of the Report entitled "It Happened in 1947".

Public Affairs Committee reports that if the American Council on Race Relations and the other organizations meeting in conference are interested in seeing the report's recommendations summarized in one of the Public Affairs Pamphlets and if ways for the use of such a pamphlet can be found, it will receive serious consideration for early 1948.

Other Agencies: The plans of the other agencies will be reported when received.

B. IMMEDIATE ACTION

There was general agreement among those attending the Committee meeting that certain action should be taken immediately. Accordingly the following steps were taken:

1. Telegrams were sent to Tom C. Clark, U. S. Attorney General, urging his using the prestige of his office to secure an adequate supply of copies of the Report and the placement of a supply for sale at popular price on the Freedom Train. Similar wires were sent to the American Heritage Foundation, sponsors of the Freedom Train, and to other key persons in Washington who might facilitate such action.

2. This report of action taken and contemplated was distributed and follow up supplementary releases have been planned.

3. A University of Chicago Round Table broadcast on the Report, designed to digest its content and to suggest ways and means of implementing its recommendations, has been scheduled. Other radio programs are being stimulated.

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4. Public Affairs Committee was urged to develop a pamphlet designed to implement the recommendations of the Report.

C. FUTURE ACTION

Agency representatives suggested and there was general concurrence that future action should include:

1. Preparation of special digests of the report written with particular groups in mind and directed at action by those groups (i.e. religious, labor, educational, etc.),

2. Preparation of popular versions and explanations of the Report by popular writers for publication in magazines and for use in other mass media such as the radio,

3. Establishment of priorities of action which delineate the respective roles of the various citizens groups, official agencies and functional organizations,

4. Allocation of responsibility among the several national, state and local official and civic organizations concerned with the subjects of the Report, and

5. Discovery and use of available resources (finances and personnel) to implement the Report.

Suggestions on all or any one of these points are solicited. Please keep us informed so that we may advise others concerned.

\_\_\_\_ American Council on Race Relations

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November 27, 1947  
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American Council on Race Relations  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago 15, Illinois

December 31, 1947

RELEASE NO. 35 (Supplement to 34, dated November 24, 1947)

SUBJECT: President's Committee on Civil Rights Report:  
Distribution and Implementation (continued)

As reported in Release 34, agencies concerned with the distribution of the report "To Secure These Rights" and with the implementation of its recommendations have submitted the following additional information on current activities and future plans.

NATIONAL AGENCIES

American Civil Liberties Union

The ACLU reports "distributing 'To Secure These Rights' widely; and with a few exceptions, we indorse its findings".

American Friends Service Committee

The Committee is distributing 500 copies of "To Secure These Rights" to race relations committees and to Friends in the several states.

American Jewish Committee

An AJC staff committee representing all departments and divisions which are concerned with the President's Committee Report, has been established to plan and supervise the AJC work in the several fields of their program. In addition, the AJC has

1. Used all media available to publicize "To Secure These Rights",
2. Created material and is planning other material bearing upon the findings and recommendations of the Report, including editorials, feature articles, comics, cartoons, posters, film strips, wall charts and similar materials, and
3. Established plans for continued cooperation with labor unions, veterans' organizations, educational groups and mass media agencies for the implementation of the recommendations of the Report.

The AJC considers the establishment of a "permanent governmental commission on civil rights, such as is recommended in the Report", as a primary objective. Early in December, the Committee wrote to its constituents urging letters to President Truman congratulating him on this Report and expressing the hope that his State of the Union message will include recommendations for its implementation.

American Jewish Congress

The Commission on Law and Social Action reports that "in addition to the general distribution of the Report among our chapters and the general instruction to them to cooperate in the formation of city and state committees on civil rights, we have

begun to draft a comprehensive Federal Civil Rights bill for Congressional action early in the next session. Intense efforts are also under way in New York to obtain the enactment of a fair educational practices law, one of the recommendations of the President's Report".

Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith

In addition to the activities reported in Release 34, the Anti-Defamation League, through its local offices, is assisting citizens' groups in several local communities to organize committees to implement the recommendations.

Recently the ADL urged President Truman and the Democratic and Republican parties to put into positive action the recommendations of the report. Letters were addressed to the chairmen of the two political parties suggesting incorporation of proposals for strengthening civil rights in the platforms of both major parties. President Truman was urged to direct an appeal to governors suggesting all possible action within their jurisdiction.

Council Against Intolerance in America

The editors of the December issue of "American Unity"; A Monthly Educational Guide (Volume 6 No. 3), have digested the report "To Secure These Rights" for their readers. This 24-page condensation carries the comment, "The report devotes very little space to actual school situations, but in its further consideration of the forces that have made a mockery of the civil rights of many Americans, the Report has many vital educational implications."

National Association of Intergroup Relations Officials

In an effort to facilitate more effective exchange of information and experience on racial and cultural relations among official and citizens' agencies particularly those operating at the state and local levels, the NAIRO secretariat is compiling information on current state and local activities. Typical of this effort is the development of a memorandum by the Illinois Inter-Racial Commission "New Responsibilities of State Governments for Strengthening Civil Rights". This memorandum, which is primarily a summary of the ten specific recommendations of the report "To Secure These Rights" which directly charge the state governments with responsibility for strengthening civil rights, has been sent to the Council of State Governments for consideration by that agency in its work with state legislators and officials.

National Community Relations Advisory Council

"The most recent issue of the NCRAC Legislative Information Bulletin, dated December 15, 1947, consists of a digest of the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights. This is being distributed through our regular mailing to the lay and professional officers of Jewish communal organizations in some 350 cities throughout the United States, and to a selected list of some 700 other individuals and agencies which have indicated special concern in the kind of work in which we are engaged."

National Conference of Christians and Jews

Early in December, the NCCJ sent a release to its 60 regional offices reporting on the observations of the national headquarters staff of NCCJ as they relate to

the Report. The release stressed the significance of the document and its concern with "civil rights and not with human relations". Reference was made to the lack of emphasis in the Report on educational programs, and inter-religious group relations. The memorandum stated that, "NCCJ may well assume major responsibility for the discussion of the Report without giving the impression that the National Conference indorses the Report or any or all of its recommendations. If NCCJ committees wish to sponsor discussions of the Report, it should be made clear that there are other aspects of the problem which ought to be considered and that all sides of the question should be considered in a discussion group arranged by NCCJ".

The NCCJ also reported that "a number of our offices are arranging discussion meetings on the report. For example, our Westchester County New York office in White Plains is planning a mass meeting on the report during Brotherhood Week to be addressed by Charles E. Wilson and possibly other members of the committee. In addition, the report is being suggested as the basis for discussion by speakers during Brotherhood Week and throughout the year".

#### Southern Regional Council

The SRC plans to implement the Report include:

1. Preparation of a digest of the Report suitable for wide distribution in the South,
2. Sponsorship of conferences in which community leaders convene to study and discuss the complete Report. These leaders will then be equipped to conduct meetings in their own communities with the digest as a textual aid.

#### STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

##### Chicago, Illinois

The Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination was asked by local agencies concerned to handle inter-agency clearance in Chicago for the distribution and implementation of the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights at a workshop for representatives from civic organizations held in December.

##### Cleveland, Ohio

On Bill of Rights Day, December 15th, the executive vice chairman of the Community Relations Board presented a copy of the Report, "To Secure These Rights" to the Mayor, the Chief Justice of the Municipal Court, the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas Court, the Presiding Judge of the Appellate Court and the President of the City Council. This was a ceremony partly for publicity purposes but will be followed by the presentation of copies of the report to ninety-eight public officials such as City Councilmen, Municipal Court Judges, Common Pleas Court Judges, members of the Mayor's official family.

##### Columbus, Ohio

The Columbus Council for Democracy has published a 14-page digest of the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, prepared by Samuel Wyer. This digest involves 12 pages of excerpts from the Report and a list of 45 items of

urged legislative action. This list includes 25 items for Congressional action; 7 specifics for the District of Columbia; 11 recommendations for state action; and 2 for joint Congressional and state action. Included with the Report is a wall chart outlining "Individual Civil Rights". Copies of this digest are available at 10¢ each for less than 25 copies, at 8¢ each for from 25 to 100 copies, and at 6¢ each for over 100 copies.

#### Illinois

The Illinois Inter-Racial Commission distributed to its constituent local committees in Illinois a 6-page condensation of the major issues involving state government action, excerpted from "To Secure These Rights". Several meetings have already been held in local communities throughout the state to discuss possible state action.

#### Michigan

About one thousand people attended a meeting in Detroit to hear Mrs. Sadie T. Alexander, former member of the President's Committee on Civil Rights discuss its Report. A state-wide meeting planned for sometime in January will have as its purpose the development of a state-wide organization with branches in several parts of the state to further a state-wide civil rights program.

#### Montclair, New Jersey

The citizens of Montclair, N. J., under the leadership of the Montclair Forum, have adopted the slogan "To Secure These Rights for Montclair". A survey has been conducted to study the status of civil rights in the community and to compare them with the standards set forth in "To Secure These Rights". Preliminary reports in the fields of health, education, housing and police administration have already been presented to the community for further consideration and action.

#### Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Two major efforts are reported as under way. The Philadelphia Fellowship Commission "convened. . . a Steering Committee of 35 non-political organizations to discuss plans. This group planned to broaden the list to 100 or 200 organizations and to invite each of them to send two delegates to a conference of organizations on or about February 5th. Such a conference would attempt to analyze the findings of the Report and divide them up among suitable organizations for a future program of activity".

"The Americans for Democratic Action is organizing an all-day conference of a mass meeting type for the middle of January with national speakers on the central theme and panel discussions on major aspects."

#### Virginia

Over 250 civic leaders of Virginia this month created at a Richmond, Va., meeting, the Virginia Civil Rights Organization with Dr. Harry P. Penn as its chairman. The first action of this new group was an indorsement of the recommendations of the Report, "To Secure These Rights".

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON RACE RELATIONS

In addition to these regular releases on current developments and correspondence with all agencies concerned with the implementation of "To Secure These Rights", the ACRR is

1. Developing plans for a cooperative effort on the part of all agencies concerned with the publication of manuals and other educational materials which might be used by local civic groups and educational institutions. These plans will be distributed early in the year for comment and suggested revisions before the plans are circulated.
2. Checking on preparation and publication of digests and summaries of the Report by other agencies.
3. Indexing and analyzing the Report "To Secure These Rights" in preparation for excerpting findings and recommendations which are of concern to functional groups in special areas; i.e., religion, education, labor, housing, etc.
4. Compiling materials on the activities and experience of local community groups as they pertain to the implementation of the recommendations of the Report.
5. Disseminating as frequently as the information received warrants, reports on the activities and experience of local communities in the implementation of the recommendations of the Report.

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AMERICAN COUNCIL ON RACE RELATIONS  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago 15 Illinois

RELEASE NO. 36

SUBJECT: National Association of Intergroup Relations Officials Established

The National Association of Intergroup Relations Officials was established on November 16, 1947, at the National Conference on Local Race Relations and Minority Group Problems. The development of this new Association, its objectives and its officers and secretariat are described below.

On November 13-14, the Council of Executives of Community Relations Boards (an informal group of officials of local government agencies concerned with race relations and minority group problems), met with officials of governors' and state legislative commissions concerned with similar problems on the state level of government. These two groups of officials appointed committees to confer with representatives of unofficial, community-wide civic organizations concerned with intergroup relations to establish a continuing association to facilitate their common objective.

This joint committee of state and local officials and representatives of community-wide citizens organizations at a meeting on November 16, 1947, nominated a slate of four officers and an executive committee of twelve representing the several types of agencies and the various sections of the country. These nominees were elected to serve as temporary officers of the Association for the year 1947-48 by unanimous vote of all representatives of state, municipal and civic agency representatives at the conference.

The conference authorized the appointment of appropriate committees to (1) prepare and submit a constitution and by-laws, (2) define and prescribe membership requirements, and (3) formulate a program of activities including arrangements for subsequent meetings of the Association.

Until such time as the Association's several committees meet and formulate more specific and detailed objectives, program and membership requirements, the following statements were approved at the conference to serve as guiding principles in the development of the Association.

Objectives

The program of the National Association of Intergroup Relations Officials has these major objectives:

(1) To facilitate more effective exchange of information and experience on racial and cultural relations among official and citizens agencies particularly those operating at the state and local levels,

(2) To bring about more effective cooperation in all phases of their work among all of the state and local agencies in various regions of the country,

(3) To establish continuing relationships with federal official agencies and national private organizations concerned with race relations and minority group problems in order to bring about more effective utilization of the resources of these agencies on the state and local scene, to enable the national organizations to become better informed of the problems and activities in the states and localities, and to utilize the resources of state and local organizations more effectively,

(4) To improve standards of work in the field of race relations and minority group problems, to advance professional and technical knowledge and practice,

and to aid the policy-makers, administrators and professional personnel in their day-to-day operations, and

(5) To develop through publications, committees and conferences a continuing program designed to improve public policy, professional practice and citizen support of intergroup relations.

Officers and Secretariat

The National Association of Intergroup Relations Officials utilizes the office of the American Council on Race Relations as a secretariat and the Executive Assistant of that organization serves as Secretary-Treasurer of NAIRO.

A list of the officers and members of the Executive Committee, with their titles and agency affiliations, is attached.

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National Association of Intergroup Relations Officials

Office: 4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago 15 Illinois

Officers:

Chairman: George Schermer, Executive Director  
City of Detroit Interracial Committee

Vice Chairman: John B. Sullivan  
Director of Public Relations, Education and Research  
New York Commission Against Discrimination

Vice Chairman: Homer Jack, Executive Secretary  
Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious  
Discrimination

Secretary Treasurer Louis Hosch, Executive Assistant  
American Council on Race Relations

Members of Executive Committee:

Ruth Abernethy, Executive Secretary  
St. Paul Council of Human Relations

Edith Alexander, Associate Director  
New York City Mayor's Committee on Unity

Frank Baldau, Executive Director, Community Relations Board  
Cleveland, Ohio

Martin H. Bickham, Chairman  
Illinois Interracial Commission

Marshall Bragdon, Executive Secretary, Mayor's Friendly Relations  
Committee, Cincinnati, Ohio

Mrs. Leslie Glenn, Board Member, Committee for Racial Democracy  
Washington, D. C.

Harold A. Lett, Chief Assistant, Division Against Discrimination  
New Jersey Department of Education

Charles Livermore, Executive Director, Board of Community Relations  
Buffalo, New York

Caroline McChesney, Executive Secretary  
California Federation for Civic Unity

Irene Miller, Executive Secretary  
Civic Unity Committee, Seattle, Washington

Frank T. Simpson, Executive Secretary  
Connecticut Interracial Commission

Thomas Wright, Executive Director, Mayor's Commission on Human Relations  
Chicago, Ill.

Established November 15, 1947

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AMERICAN COUNCIL ON RACE RELATIONS

4901 South Ellis Avenue  
Chicago 15, Illinois

RELEASE NO. 37

SUBJECT: Dissemination of President's Committee Report,  
"To Secure These Rights"

SPECIAL REQUEST

Will you please cooperate with us by advising the Public Affairs Committee today of the number of copies of the pamphlet described below your agency may require?

USE ENCLOSED POSTAL CARD

The Public Affairs Committee has under preparation a 32-page summary of "To Secure These Rights", the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights. The Summary, which is being prepared by Jerome Ellison, former editor of Collier's and '47, will emphasize the sections of the Report dealing with racial and religious discrimination and will contain, in addition to the specific recommendations of the Report, concrete suggestions on the means by which individuals and community groups can implement the findings of the Report through action.

The pamphlet, popularly written and illustrated, will be No. 139 in the well-known Public Affairs Pamphlet series, issued by the Public Affairs Committee, Inc., 22 East 38th Street, New York 16, New York. Single copies, 20¢. Quantity rates for 10 through 10,000 copies range from 15¢ per copy to 8¢ per copy. Publication date is tentatively set for March 15.

The American Council on Race Relations has been asked to determine approximately the number of copies of this pamphlet that may be required by each of the agencies. Will you therefore please fill out the enclosed card and mail it to the Public Affairs Committee?

Enclosure

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American Council on Race Relations  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago 15, Illinois

February 23, 1948

RELEASE NO. 38 (Supplement to 34 and 35)  
Subject: President's Committee on Civil Rights Report;  
Distribution and Implementation (continued)

As announced in Release 34, agencies concerned with the distribution of the report, "To Secure These Rights" and with the implementation of its recommendations have submitted the following additional information on current activities and future plans.

NATIONAL AGENCIES

American Jewish Committee

In reporting on recent developments relating to the promotion of "To Secure These Rights" the AJC noted that it considered the Report of the President's Commission on Higher Education as part of its general program in the field of civil rights.

Civil Rights: Editorials, feature articles and cartoons and posters have been prepared for religious, veterans' and labor press; resolutions have been drafted for a forthcoming women's national conference. Special radio "spots" and "plugs" were arranged for several shows in connection with Bill of Rights Day. Additional radio attention for the Report was arranged with AJC cooperation on numerous forums presented during December and early January.

The AJC staff committee on civil rights has worked out a detailed plan for a governmental permanent Commission on Civil Rights. A national citizens' committee to educate Americans to the spirit and significance of the Report is still in the planning stages. AJC chapters have been plugging for establishment of state and local citizens' committees to promote the President's Report.

The recent Report of the President's Commission on Higher Education was praised by Judge Proskauer in a wire to President Truman, urging that "the implementation of these basic contemporary charters of democracy will have a profound effect on the strength of the democratic system in the United States and throughout the world." The Commission urged compulsory legislation in the form of "Fair Educational Practices Laws," similar to the fair employment practices measures enacted or considered by several states, particularly by New York.

The New York State Commission on a State University has approved a statement condemning the use of racial and religious quotas by institutions of higher learning and outlining specific legislation to prevent such discrimination in the future. The New York Chapter's Committee on Higher Education is engaged in preparation of

Two memoranda which will be submitted to Governor Dewey - one in support of a four-year state-supported liberal arts college and the other pointing out the urgent need for additional medical school facilities.

Congress of Industrial Organizations

A National Conference on Civil Rights was scheduled in February by the CIO at Cleveland, Ohio in order to perfect and present a program to its membership and to the American people, "To Secure These Rights."

Fisk University

The Social Science Institute of Fisk University in its Race Relations: A Monthly Summary of Events and Trends, December 1947 - January 1948, Vol. V, No. 3 and No. 4, issue includes a summary entitled "Press Reactions to the Report of the Committee on Civil Rights."

Jewish Labor Committee

Present plans of this Committee include: (1) the servicing of the labor press with a series of illustrated articles summarizing the Report, (2) the preparation of a film strip on the Report for showing at labor meetings, classes, conferences and conventions, and (3) the Field Staff has been instructed to make the Report a basis for discussion at the various labor meetings and classes which they service as their primary responsibility.

National Conference of Christians and Jews

The Conference has authorized a New York City film publisher to produce for the NCCJ a minimum of 200 copies of a filmstrip to be entitled "To Secure These Rights," based on the Report; cost to NCCJ, with script, is \$2.00 each. The NCCJ suggests that interested agencies consult Sherman Price, Film Publishers, Inc., 25 Broad Street, New York City, regarding orders of this filmstrip.

National Council of Negro Women

According to a recent release, regional directors and metropolitan Council presidents serving the Council in ten different widely separated areas, principally in southern states, have initiated movements in their own communities to interest citizens in the Report.

Social Action Magazine

The February 15, 1948 issue of Social Action Magazine (Vol. XIV, No. 2) devotes seventeen of its pocket-sized pages to Robert K. Carr's interpretation of the Report in an article entitled "To Secure Our Civil Liberties." (One to nine copies, 15 cents each; fifty or more copies, 10 cents each.)

Southern Regional Council

The SRC has just released a twenty-seven page digest of the Report which presents "in convenient form the substance of the Report... This briefer version may serve as a manual for study and discussion by interested groups and individuals throughout the South." The SRC also reports that another manual on community organization in southern communities to implement the recommendations, is being prepared.

Some 200 to 300 Southern leaders will come together in Atlanta on February 27 to discuss the Report and to devise means of strengthening civil rights throughout the South. Co-sponsors of the meeting with SRC are: United Council of Church Women, American Veterans Committee, Georgia Council of Church Women, National Urban League, Atlanta Urban League, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and Georgia Workers' Educational Service.

United Public Workers of America

The current activities and future plans of the UPWA include conferences of local unions and community organizations on the issue of discrimination in public employment with emphasis upon discrimination in federal government jobs in cities throughout the country. The first conference was held in Chicago in January. Similar conferences are now being prepared in New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Detroit. Since the President's Committee on Civil Rights Report emphasizes the various problems confronted by this union, they are stressing the recommendations of that Report.

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON RACE RELATIONS

In addition to these regular releases (this being the third) on current developments and correspondence with agencies concerned with the implementation of "To Secure These Rights", the ACRR is:

1. Canvassing all agencies in the field to secure estimates of the number of copies which will be needed for distribution, of the new pamphlet, No. 139, "To Secure These Rights", a summary popularly written and illustrated and to be published around March 15 by the Public Affairs Committee;
2. Making available upon request mimeographed copies of a complete index to the official edition of the Report, "To Secure These Rights";
3. Compiling a check list of all agencies and organizations which have endorsed the recommendations of the Report;
4. Serving the National Association of Intergroup Relations Officials on the development of that Association's plans to implement the recommendations of the Report through the NAIRO membership and determining current state and local action on the Report by a canvass of all state and local agencies.
5. Completing in March its manual, "To Secure These Rights in YOUR Community", which will be available as a guide for state and local groups interested in implementing the recommendations of the Report.

NOTE: The next release will include a summary of current state and local action.

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AMERICAN COUNCIL ON RACE RELATIONS  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
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March 31, 1948

RELEASE NO. 39

SUBJECT: State and Local Community Activities and Plans to Carry Out  
Recommendations of "TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS".

During March, information from the states listed below was reported to the American Council on current state and local efforts to implement the recommendations of the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, "TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS". The National Association of Intergroup Relations Officials also requested the cooperation of state and local agencies in supplying information.

SUMMARY

1. Since the Report was released by the President's Committee in October, 1947, a number of excerpts, briefs, summaries and condensations have been published by various organizations. A check list of excerpts and summaries of the Report is attached to this release.

2. The reports from agencies reveal that approximately 16,000 copies of the Report were distributed in 13 communities. If this distribution was typical for all local agencies and for other communities not reporting the number distributed or from which reports have not yet been received, the total number of copies or reprints distributed by local agencies was relatively low considering the importance of the Report to all citizens. It is also significant that the distribution is selective, being primarily to persons who are members of intergroup relations agencies, to those attending meetings and to selected officials.

3. Apparently, from the reports submitted, local activity is still in the education and discussion stage. Even future plans indicate further discussion. Only a few communities report development of action committees, and support of specific legislation.

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES (County Committee on Human Relations and Los Angeles Urban League)

Dissemination of Report:

2000 copies PM edition sold, 100 copies Simon & Schuster edition sold. (This distribution was on the occasion of the visit of the Freedom Train. A full report of the Los Angeles experience and that of other communities with the Freedom Train will be the subject of a subsequent release.)

Meetings and Other Activities:

A community conference was held including panel discussions on employment, education, housing and public institutions; findings and recommendations of conference to be distributed in near future.

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OAKLAND (Jewish Public Relations Council)

Dissemination of Report:

1000 copies PM edition. 200 copies Simon & Schuster edition. 500 copies San Francisco NEWS edition. (Copies sent to all key persons in government, education, publicity and mass communications agencies.)

PASADENA (Council of Churches)

Dissemination of Report:

500 copies PM edition. 40 copies Simon & Schuster edition. (Distribution at Freedom Train exhibit.)

REDFOOD CITY (Council for Civic Unity)

Dissemination of Report:

300 copies Official edition. Plan to distribute additional copies when Freedom Train visits.

Meetings and Other Activities:

Meeting on "Unemployment and Minorities"; Employment Committee formed to be a major project in 1948.

Meeting of Committees on Housing, Community Organization, Legislation, and Membership scheduled.

Speakers sent to local high school assemblies.

Special survey of housing undertaken and a housing bureau established to locate homes for minority groups' occupancy and to facilitate integration of minorities into new neighborhoods. (Information on project available on request.)

Interracial dinner held (200 attended).

Future Plans:

April area conference scheduled with Report as theme which will bring in groups not now actively participating.

April public meeting scheduled featuring "Poems of Negro Life".

COLORADO

DENVER (Denver Unity Council)

Dissemination of Report:

1500 copies PM edition to Council members in Denver and in other parts of Colorado; 150 copies to Colorado schools and libraries. 900 copies of a comparison of the recommendations of the Report with those of the Report of the Denver Mayor's Survey Committee on Human Relations. 900 announcements on the Report on Mutual radio station.

DENVER (con't.)

Meetings:

Frequent appearance of speakers at meetings of Denver organizations presenting findings of President's and Mayor's Committee Reports.

CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT STATE INTER-RACIAL COMMISSION

Meetings and Other Activities:

Collaborated with the Fellowship Commission of Hartford in establishing an exhibit of materials including the summaries mentioned at the Hartford Public Library.

ILLINOIS

Illinois Interracial Commission

AURORA

Meetings:

All-day conference, "With Liberty and Justice for All - In Our Community", sponsored by twenty-eight local organizations and the Commission.

GALESBURG

(Similar to Aurora meeting; other conferences scheduled in three other Illinois communities.)

CHICAGO (Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination)

Dissemination of Report:

650 copies PM edition to organizations. 50 copies Official edition.

Meetings and Other Activities:

A series of six lectures on civil rights sponsored at Roosevelt College.

INDIANA

ANDERSON (Anderson Urban League)

Dissemination of Report:

Explanatory materials on the Report prepared for presentation by individuals to their organizations.

Information and literature on the Report made available to college students and to interested groups and individuals.

Meetings and Other Activities:

Speeches on the Report at local meetings by Executive Secretary.

ANDERSON (con't.)

At meeting of League Board of Directors, Report discussed and members urged to write and wire President and Congressmen in support of recommendations.

Telegrams to President commending him on Report and to Congressmen urging support. (Other organizations induced to similar action.)

FORT WAYNE (Branch of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)

Dissemination of Report:

500 copies PM edition sent to all new members as part of membership drive and copies available for sale.

Meetings and Other Activities:

Report discussed at open public meetings.

Report endorsed, and other groups induced to endorse Report. Other meetings scheduled.

WEST LAFAYETTE (Social Action Committee, Purdue Students)

Dissemination of Report:

500 copies and related literature distributed at meetings.

Meetings and Other Activities:

Community-wide meeting with local Protestant minister as principal speaker on the Report.

Future Plans:

Series of Meetings on the several sections of Report.

Conference in cooperation with Interfaith Council of Purdue University scheduled for May.

KANSAS

LAWRENCE (Kansas State Council on Civil Liberties)

Meetings and Other Activities:

At a state-wide meeting attended by representatives from twenty communities in Kansas, the Report was the subject of a conference which resulted in the establishment of the Kansas Council on Civil Liberties. (Executive Secretary, Lorna Green, Box 519, Lawrence, Kansas, according to March release of the Kansas Council.)

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE (Baltimore Urban League)

Future Plans:

City-wide conference on civil rights, similar to the one held in Montclair,

BALTIMORE (con't.)

N. J., planned in cooperation with Baltimore Chapter of Americans for Democratic Action. Conditions will be compared with those set forth in the Report. Over 20 Maryland organizations were represented at a preliminary meeting.

MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON (The Frances Sweeney Committee)

Meetings and Other Activities:

Executive Secretary serving as Secretary of Massachusetts Committee on Civil Rights which recently held a state-wide Conference on Civil Rights, sponsored by twenty-nine organizations.

Speakers supplied to other groups discussing civil rights and the Report.

Committee cooperating with American Veterans Committee in local civil rights audit.

BOSTON (Jewish Community Council)

Dissemination of Report:

Radio panels to discuss Report established.

Film strips and 16mm. film based on Report sought for local distribution.

Meetings and Other Activities:

Discussion panels established for other groups for analysis of Report.

Cooperation with Massachusetts Committee on Civil Rights in promoting interest in Report.

CAMBRIDGE (Civic Unity Committee)

Dissemination of Report:

Copies of the Report sent to all members.

Copies sent upon request to teachers for classroom use.

Special bound copy presented to City Manager at ceremony.

Meetings and Other Activities:

Discussion of the Report at regular monthly meetings.

Special meeting and reception for public school teachers and school officials where Report was on display.

Future Plans:

Investigation of public housing facilities available to all citizens.  
Distribution of forthcoming Public Affairs Pamphlet scheduled.

MICHIGAN

GRAND RAPIDS (Young Women's Christian Association)

Dissemination of Report:

Copies of Report distributed to members of local Public Affairs Committee and luncheon discussion groups.

Meetings and Other Activities:

Letters sent to Congressmen urging enactment of FEPC and Anti-Poll Tax legislation (as part of YWCA National Public Affairs program).

A representative is serving on local Civil Rights Committee.

Future Plans:

April community-wide meeting planned for panel discussion of Report.

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Jewish Council

MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL

Dissemination of Report:

Copies of Report distributed at meeting and to all "moulders of public opinion" in the State.

Panel discussions held on Mutual's local radio station to discuss local aspects of Report and to advocate support of legislation as follow-up on Mutual's broadcast series on the Report.

Meetings and Other Activities:

Other organizations stimulated to request of Governor a bipartisan state commission to study Report, recommend legislation and to create necessary new agencies.

Future Plans:

At future business meeting of an informal group of community leaders in field of human relations, entire meeting will be devoted to the Report.

MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY (Urban League of Kansas City)

Meetings and Other Activities:

Staff of League has presented excerpts of Report to local meetings.

Future Plans:

Meetings on the Report scheduled for April.  
Copies of forthcoming Public Affairs pamphlet, "These Are Our Rights to Keep", will be distributed.

ST. LOUIS (St. Louis Civil Liberties Committees)

Dissemination of Report:

1300 copies PM edition distributed at a recent institute and to local groups, schools and to individuals requesting copies.

Meetings and Other Activities:

An all-day institute discussed in detail the following aspects of the Report: (1) housing problems, (2) civil rights and employment, (3) segregation in education, and (4) political rights and freedom.

Future Plans:

A large meeting of the committee's membership is planning to consider future action in St. Louis.

NEW JERSEY

MONTCLAIR (Neighborhood Council)

Dissemination of Report:

25 copies PM edition to members of the Council. The Report of the "Montclair Audit" by the American Veterans Committee reproduced and distributed (200 copies).

Meetings and Other Activities:

Human Relations Committee of the Council is cooperating with State Teachers College in the implementation of the "Montclair Audit's" recommendations relating to public facilities.

NEW YORK

BUFFALO (Board of Community Relations)

Dissemination of Report:

3000 copies of a "summary of the Report" sent to schools, churches and to interested individuals, 2000 reprints of "an article on the Report" distributed to local agencies.

Meetings and Other Activities:

Local agency committees have endorsed the Report's recommendations and sent evidence of their action to the President and to Congressmen.

The Report has been the subject of local radio programs and of sermons.

Future Plans:

A community-wide meeting to discuss Report is being planned.

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OHIO

YOUNGSTOWN (Intergroup Goodwill Council)

Dissemination of Report:

600 copies PM edition. Copies Simon & Schuster edition sent to all local public officials concerned with intergroup relations.

Special digests of the several sections of the Report have been prepared for distribution to functional groups (League of Women Voters, etc.) with a different cover for each group.

Future Plans:

A city-wide conference on the Report is contemplated.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA (International Institute)

Meetings and Other Activities:

The Institute is currently studying the Report and is actively supporting evacuation claims legislation and related legislation on immigration, naturalization and deportation as recommended in the Report.

PITTSBURGH (American Service Institute of Allegheny County and Jewish Community Relations Council)

Dissemination of Report:

Copies PM edition made available free of charge by the Pittsburgh Courier, local newspaper, and distributed to leading citizens of the community.

Meetings and Other Activities:

Several meetings of all the local agencies concerned with intergroup relations were held to discuss plans and methods of local implementation; a one-day conference on the Report is scheduled to relate findings to local conditions.

TEXAS

McALLEN (Unitarian Service Committee - Southwest Area Office)

Dissemination of Report:

1000 copies distributed to individuals and organizations in the State.

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SUMMARIES, DIGESTS AND INTERPRETATIONS  
of  
TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS: A PRELIMINARY CHECK LIST

COMPILED BY THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON RACE RELATIONS IN MARCH, 1948

To Secure These Rights. A digest of the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, 1947. American Council on Race Relations, 4901 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

"To Secure These Rights." A condensation of the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights. American Unity, December, 1947. Council Against Intolerance in America, 17 East 42nd Street, New York 17 N. Y.

President's Committee on Civil Rights. "To Secure These Rights." Baltimore Afro-American. Installments beginning November 22, 1947.

Carr, Robert K. "To Secure Our Civil Liberties." An interpretation of the recent Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights. Social Action, February 15, 1948. Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 15 cents.

"To Secure These Rights." A brief summary of the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights. The Compass, January, 1948. Albany, N. Y. American Association of Social Workers, 130 East 22nd Street, New York, N. Y.

To Secure These Rights. A brief summary of the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights. Community Relations Service, 386 Fourth Avenue, New York 16 N. Y.

"To Secure These Rights." Information Service, November 8, 1947. Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10 cents.

"The New Charter of Freedom." Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights. NCRAC Legislative Information Bulletin, December 15, 1947. National Community Relations Advisory Council, 295 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

President's Committee on Civil Rights. "To Secure These Rights" PM Magazine Section, November 2, 1947.

President's Committee on Civil Rights. "To Secure These Rights." Pittsburgh Courier. Installments beginning November 8, 1947.

Schlesinger, Arthur; White, Walter; and Wirth, Louis. Civil Rights and Loyalty; a radio discussion. Including a special supplement on To Secure These Rights, (excerpts selected by American Council on Race Relations). November 23, 1947. University of Chicago Round Table, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Illinois. 10 cents.

President's Committee on Civil Rights, To Secure These Rights. New York; Simon & Schuster, 1947.

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Race Relations: A Monthly Summary of Events and Trends. Special Civil Rights issue, December, 1947 - January, 1948. Fisk University, Nashville 8, Tenn.  
25 cents,

To Secure These Rights. A digest of the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights. Southern Regional Council, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E., Atlanta, Ga.

Wyer, Samuel S. Digest of the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights. Columbus Council for Democracy, Room 7, 9 E. Long St., Columbus, Ohio.

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# Assembly papers



## Community Relations and Civil Rights

CURRENT TRENDS IN ANTI-SEMITISM

*John Slawson, New York*

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS

*Henry Epstein, New York*

INTEGRATING COMMUNITY RELATIONS

*Bernard P. Kopkind, New Haven*

COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS AND WELFARE FUNDS  
165 WEST 46 STREET  
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

PRESENTED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY • CHICAGO • JANUARY, 1948

THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS

By HENRY EPSTEIN  
Chairman, National Community Relations Advisory Council

\*

This is 1948. Four score and seven years ago this nation, dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, was rent asunder by a great civil war designed to test whether this nation so dedicated could long endure.

Ten days ago some twenty million pairs of feet had finally worn a path to the entrance of the marble temple which houses the Supreme Court of the United States. Twenty million pairs of naked fists beat upon the doors over which is inscribed the legend "Equality Under The Law", demanding a fulfillment of that maxim, not "Equal Facilities", but "Equality". At long last their plea was heard, the plea of minorities for equal treatment under the law. The aspirations of twenty million souls for recognition, at least in law, of full and democratic equality, were laid upon the table for action by the Supreme Court of the United States. Coming fast upon the heels of the publication and demand for implementation of the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, this argument of the restrictive covenant cases marks a vital point in our national life.

Report A "Best Seller"

On October 29, 1947, in banner headlines and front page stories, the nation's press announced the release of the report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights. Editorial comments on that and succeeding days described the report variously as "monumental", "epoch making", "a milestone in the diffusion of American democracy", and a "new charter of human freedom". Within a week the Government Printing Office had exhausted its supply of the report. A commercial edition was snapped up no less eagerly, and within two weeks the report had become a best seller.

Now reports by Presidential Committees are no novelty. Indeed it is quite customary when a complex problem presents itself - in government as well as in social agencies - to appoint a committee and assign to it responsibility for making a study. Such committees usually approach their task with seriousness and high resolve. After months of conscientious effort, they produce a report which all too often finds but passing reference on a back page of the New York Times, is carefully filed, and promptly forgotten.

To be sure, the Committee on Civil Rights comprised a distinguished and representative group of citizens. Headed by Charles E. Wilson, President of the General Electric Company, it included labor leaders and industrialists, churchmen, educators and lawyers, Protestants, Catholics and Jews, Negroes and whites, men and women from the South as well as the North, East and West.

Nevertheless, there was nothing in the composition of the Committee which presaged the tremendous impact and interest which its report was to have. On the contrary, the creation of the Committee by Executive Order of the President on December 5, 1946 hardly created a stir. There were, in fact, many who cynically observed that the President had appointed the Committee as a substitute for the direct action that was demanded of him to cope with the ugly situation disclosed by the quadruple lynchings outside Monroe, Georgia. The report of this Committee,

observed the cynics, would be a political whitewash. Nor was much attention paid to the Committee in succeeding months as it went about its task of interviewing government officials, conducting research studies, and listening to testimony from interested organizations, including our own national community relations agencies.

#### Strengthen Civil Liberties

What then was the nature of the Report to have evoked such widespread news coverage, such lavish praise, and so much public interest? What revolutionary concepts, what startling recommendations did it contain?

The Committee was charged with determining "Whether and in what respect current law enforcement measures must be strengthened to safeguard the civil rights of the people". At the very outset, the Committee decided to define its task broadly, "to go beyond the specific flagrant outrages to which the President referred... because these individual instances are only reflections of deeper maladies ... We must cure the disease," the report states, "as well as treat its symptoms." Accordingly, the Committee sought answers to the following:

1. "What is the historic civil rights goal of the American people?
2. "In what way does our present record fall short of the goal?
3. "What is government's responsibility for the achievement of the goal?
4. "What further steps does the nation now need to take to reach the goal?

The report is divided into four sections providing answers to these questions.

The first section defines the American heritage in words of such moving eloquence that they well merit being read in full:

"The central theme in our American heritage is the importance of the individual person. From the earliest moment of our history we have believed that every human being has an essential dignity and integrity which must be respected and safeguarded. Moreover, we believe that the welfare of the individual is the final goal of group life. Our American heritage further teaches that to be secure in the rights he wishes for himself, each man must be willing to respect the rights of other men. This is the conscious recognition of a basic moral principle: all men are created equal as well as free. Stemming from this principle is the obligation to build social institutions that will guarantee equality of opportunity to all men. Without this equality freedom becomes an illusion. Thus the only aristocracy that is consistent with the free way of life is an aristocracy of talent and achievement. The grounds on which our society accords respect, influence or reward to each of its citizens must be limited to the quality of his personal character and of his social contribution."

#### "These Inalienable Rights..."

Certain basic rights are deemed by the Committee essential to this definition. They are:

The Rights to Safety and Security of the Person.

The Right to Citizenship and its Privileges.  
The Right to Freedom of Conscience and Expression.  
The Right to Equality of Opportunity.

The second section titled "The Record" comprises almost half of the 178 page report. It documents, with specific citation, and merciless condemnation, the extent to which we have fallen short of the four basic rights deemed essential. With respect to the Right to Safety and Security of Person, the Report describes the gradual decline in lynchings with the reminder that there has not yet been a year in which America has been free of lynching, and with the further admonition that "a single lynching is one too many." It points out that "the large number of attempted lynchings highlights, even more than those which have succeeded, the widespread readiness of many communities to resort to mob violence." It discusses and documents instances of police brutality, of "physical attacks by police officials on members of minority groups, the use of third degree methods to extort confessions, and the abuse of the search and seizure powers." "The total picture -- adding the connivance of some police officials in lynchings to their record of brutality in other situations -- is, in the opinion of the Committee, a serious reflection on American justice."

In addition the Report finds that the judicial process itself does not give full and equal justice to minorities. This may appear in unfair or perfunctory trials, in exclusion from juries, in arbitrary arrests, or in fines and prison sentences that are heavier than those imposed on other members of the community guilty of the same offenses.

The Committee reviews the wartime forced evacuation of Japanese-Americans from the West Coast, and expresses its disturbance at this basic departure from the American principle that "guilt is personal and not a matter of heredity or association."

The Report provides similar documentation of our shortcomings with respect to the "Right to Citizenship and its Privileges." It reviews the denials of citizenship on racial grounds to Japanese, Koreans and other Orientals, the discriminatory alien-land laws, the denial of suffrage through the poll tax and other devices, and discrimination in the armed forces.

The Right to Freedom of Conscience and Expression is, according to the Committee, "relatively secure." Americans worship as they choose. Our press is freer from government restraints than any the world has seen. The most serious threat to freedom of opinion and expression stems from the efforts to deal with those few people in our midst who would destroy democracy." namely, the Communists and Fascists. The Report stresses the need to protect our government against attempts to subvert it as firmly as it cautions against "witchhunts" and hysteria, and reaffirms its faith in the traditional "clear and present danger" rule.

The fourth Right, namely the Right to Equality of Opportunity, is discussed in considerable detail.

The facts and effects of discrimination and segregation in employment, education, housing, and other economic fields are set down, and responsibility is appropriately allocated between the acts of government and those of private enterprise. Separate sections are devoted to the subjects of segregation and the District of Columbia; the Committee concludes that the theory that segregation permits "separate but equal" accommodations is "one of the outstand-

ing myths of American history," and that "the situation that exists in the District of Columbia...is intolerable."

The Responsibility Of Government

Section III covers "Government's Responsibility: Securing the Rights." Here the Committee expresses its conclusion that "the National Government of the United States must take the lead in safeguarding the civil rights of all Americans." The reasons for this belief are set forth, the means available to the Government are considered, and its record in the past is reviewed.

Section IV, "A Program of Action" follows the preceding pages with complete logic and contains the Committee's recommendations. These include reorganization and strengthening of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Section; a Permanent Commission on Civil Rights; a Federal anti-lynching law; Federal and state action ending poll taxes and white primaries; legislation ending discrimination and segregation in the armed forces; conditioning of federal grants to public or private agencies on the absence of discrimination; enactment of federal and state fair employment bills; state enactment of fair educational and fair health bills and measures outlawing restrictive real estate covenants; Federal and State legislation declaring discrimination or segregation in public services, transportation facilities or public accommodations to be contrary to public policy, application of the disclosure principle for organizations engaged in influencing public opinion, local self-government and suffrage for residents of the District of Columbia, modification of the naturalization laws to permit citizenship without regard to race, color, or national origins, legislation to indemnify evacuees for property or business losses, and a long term campaign of public education.

This is indeed an impressive set of recommendations, recommendations which, if put into effect, would mark an advance of far-reaching dimensions toward our goal of freedom and equality. Yet there is nothing in the entire list of recommendations so original or so startling as to account for the almost phenomenal impact the Report has made. Aside from the proposal that registration procedures, similar to those now in effect for lobbyists, be required of all groups seeking to influence public opinion, the Report contains no recommendation that has not already been proposed, debated and fought over at great length, both in Congress and in the state legislatures.

The statements and testimony submitted to the Committee by our own agencies incorporate virtually every major recommendation set forth in the Report. The Committee's analysis of postwar employment trends is based largely on the survey conducted by the NCRAC Committee on Employment Discrimination. We have been on record in favor of federal, state, and local FEPC laws for several years. We and our member agencies have participated in the drafting of FEPC bills; we have testified at Congressional and state committee hearings; and have been in the forefront of all campaigns to secure the enactment of these vital measures. Our Committee on Discrimination in Educational Institutions initiated the measure now before Congress to amend the G.I. Bill of Rights so as to forbid payments to schools purporting to be non-sectarian but practicing discrimination. That same committee long since adopted a policy favoring the enactment of state fair educational practice laws, and at this moment our agencies are engaged in a campaign which, we have reason to believe, will soon result in placing the first such law on the statute books of our country.

- 5 -

Our Legislative Information Bulletin, the most recent issue of which deals with the Report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, has previously analyzed the discriminatory features of our Immigration and Naturalization Laws, the need for eliminating the poll tax, and for the enactment of a federal anti-lynching law. We have consistently opposed discrimination in public accommodations and only recently the NCRAC took a position in behalf of all our agencies in opposition to the policy of excluding Negroes from the theaters of our nation's capitol. Opposition to restrictive real estate covenants is similarly a matter of NCRAC policy, and is manifested in the briefs recently filed by our agencies in the covenant cases now before the Supreme Court.

#### Reaffirmation of Basic Principles

In a sense, then, the Report presents nothing new, either in its findings, or in its recommendations. The very title of the Report, "To Secure These Rights" is a phrase from the Declaration of Independence, and the basic rights which it sets forth are but a reaffirmation of those fundamental principles proclaimed in the Declaration, the Constitution, the Emancipation Proclamation and the other historical documents which constitute the American heritage.

Twice before in American history the nation has found it necessary to review the state of its civil rights. The first time was during the 15 years between 1776 and 1791, from the drafting of the Declaration of Independence through the Articles of Confederation experiment to the writing of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It was then that the distinctively American heritage was finally distilled from earlier views of liberty. The second time was when the Union was temporarily sundered over the question of whether it could exist "half-slave" and "half-free."

We have reached a point, says the Report, when "conscience, self interest and survival in a threatening world demand a third such re-examination and a sustained drive ahead."

What gives the Report its powerful impact is not then the novelty of its proposals, but the way it wraps up all these issues into a single program and, in the setting of today's problems, lays it before the American people with the imperative finding that "the time for action is now."

We are engaged in a vast global conflict -- a conflict not of planes, guns, ships and tanks, but a conflict between the ideas and moral values of our democratic civilization and the philosophy of totalitarianism. The Right to Safety and Security of the Person, the Right to Citizenship and its Privileges, the Right to Freedom of Conscience and Expression, the Right to Equality of Opportunity, in short, what the Report terms "the essential dignity and integrity" of the individual -- these are the touchstone of our democratic ideal. In the consciousness of democratic peoples everywhere, these are the weapons with which we confront the philosophy of totalitarianism. They will win superiority for us in that conflict of ideas only to the extent to which we utilize them.

The treatment of our minorities is no longer a side issue; it is the test of our sincerity of purpose. We cannot rally the peoples of the world against the police state if we permit any intimations of police brutality in our own country; we cannot rail against an iron curtain if we deny freedom of expression to groups within our midst -- however unpopular those views may be--;

we cannot appeal to the consciences of that two-thirds of the world that is colored if we continue to deny civil rights to men of color here at home; we cannot appear as the apostles of the four freedoms, until we demonstrate that we mean those freedoms to be for everybody. In short, we can no longer isolate ourselves from our own moral ideas; we can no longer appease and tolerate amongst ourselves the selfsame practices we denounce so strongly in others. "The U. S. is not so strong, the final triumph of the democratic ideal is not so inevitable that we can ignore what the world thinks of us or our record."

The very response to the Report reflects a sense of guilt -- of our failure to live up to our self-professed ideals, an awareness of the conflict between our professions and performances, and a recognition of the pressing need to bridge the gap.

#### Overcoming The Gap Between Theory And Practice

It is shocking to realize how far short we have fallen of attaining the goals of our basic American heritage -- how pervasive is the gap between our preaching and practice. There is much in the Report that fills us with shame, and yet it is shame mingled with a sense of pride. The very existence of such a report is in itself an affirmation of the continuing vitality of a free society. Only a free society would have the courage to initiate such a Report and publish its conclusions. A nation which could thus examine its own evils had taken one of the most important steps toward remedying them. For it is precisely this capacity for examining its own ills, as a necessary prelude to curing them, which constitutes the prime virtue of democracy. Thus the Report presents us at one and the same time with a challenge and an opportunity.

Separately considered, the FEPC, the anti-lynching and anti-poll tax bills, and the various other legislative proposals would be obliged to take their chances in the play of prejudice and politics. Consolidated into a single program, they constitute a massive attack on prejudice itself, an attack on the denials of rights and opportunities, on the blindness and barbarisms that subvert democracy -- a massive attack that affords an opportunity for massive success.

Since the Report was issued, the Attorney General has announced plans for strengthening the Civil Rights section of the Department of Justice, the House subcommittee on the District of Columbia has recommended self-government for the residents of that area, the Interior Department has filed a brief in an Indian voting case, the Justice Department has taken similar action in the restrictive covenant cases, and the President has promised a special message to the Congress on the subject of civil rights.

The goals set by the Report, however, cannot be achieved by the White House alone or even on Capitol Hill. "The protection of civil rights", says the President's Committee, "is a national problem which affects everyone." All of our governments, federal, state and local, and all of our citizenry, must be stimulated into becoming uncompromising enemies of discrimination, which is prejudice come to life. The adoption of specific legislation, the implementation of existing laws, or the development of new administrative policies and procedures, however, cannot alone bring us all the way to full civil rights. They must be reinforced by education -- education through carefully planned experience to break down the fear of groups; education

through information to dispel ignorance about our heritage and our civil rights; education through scientific research to determine the causes of prejudice; education to create a climate of public opinion which will outlaw individual abridgement or personal freedom -- in short all of the knowledge, skills and techniques which are inherent in what we term the community relations approach.

Self-analysis Leads To Corrective Action

Communities throughout the country have responded to the challenge. Most of you have probably read about the self survey conducted in Montclair, New Jersey of the extent to which discrimination was being practiced in the area of education, health, housing, employment, recreation and use of public facilities. This audit, which revealed that the community falls short of the goals recommended by the Committee on Civil Rights, is a prelude for a program of self corrective action. Similar audits are already being planned in many other communities. In Minnesota, efforts are being made to induce the Governor to appoint a commission for the purpose of recommending state legislation along the lines suggested by the report. Various city-wide and state-wide councils on civil rights have been established to help implement the recommendations contained in the report. Editorials, feature articles, comics, cartoons, posters, film strips, dramatizations bearing upon the findings and the recommendations in the report are in various stages of preparation and plans are being developed to distribute these as widely as possible throughout the country, utilizing all the mass communication media.

The difficulties are great, but the very scope and boldness of the program gives it strength. It is not simply a program for dealing with one or another abuse. It is a program for justice and freedom -- a program for democracy. In his message on the State of the Union, President Truman declared that the "first goal" of our national policy is "to secure fully the essential human rights of our citizens." It must become the "first goal" of every Jewish community as well.

Millions have died twice in our own lifetime to safeguard what we regard as our heritage. "Let us here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain" - That this nation under God shall attain its birthright - to the end "that this Government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from this earth."

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PUBLICATION: OPINION NEWS

To Secure These Rights, the recently published report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, prompted us to pull together for the readers of Opinion News a report on the attitudes and opinions of the American people as they affect race relations and minority group problems. You will find reproduced on the other three pages of this communication the beginning of this report.

We are sending it to you because we thought you might be interested, not only in this report on the state of public opinion with respect to an important public issue, but also in corresponding reports on the attitudes and opinions of people in this and other countries based on the current findings of research agencies. Each issue of Opinion News carries the results of polls and surveys made in the United States and a dozen or more other countries during the preceding two or three weeks.

Opinion News, published semi-monthly by the National Opinion Research Center, is designed to serve people who need valid and reliable information about the public interest in and attitudes toward various public issues. It is a non-profit, non-commercial enterprise that is strictly reportorial in its function. We would like to have you as a regular subscriber, as we believe you would find its content useful and as we need your support for this educational venture. A subscription card is enclosed for your convenience.

We thought that you might be especially interested in reports such as the one partially reproduced herein. This article is the first installment of a digest of the findings from attitude and opinion surveys in this important area. The next following issue will report on attitudes toward the Japanese-Americans and anti-Semitism. The National Opinion Research Center is working closely with the American Council on Race Relations and with other agencies and organizations concerned with these problems. In cooperation with them, we now have under way some long-range studies of the antipathies, prejudices, and types of conduct that limit the full participation of many persons and groups in American life. The results of these studies, which will provide basic information necessary for effective and economical social action, will be published from time to time in the Opinion News.

We know that the attached excerpt is not an adequate sample of Opinion News content, but we hope you will find it interesting enough either to fill in and return the enclosed card now or to ask us to send you a sample issue or two, in case you think you may be interested in subscribing.

*Clyde W. Hart*

Clyde W. Hart  
Director

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Editorial entitled, "Civil Rights and the Election", The Christian Century, Vol. LXV, No. 7, February 18, 1948.

It is hard to know how to treat President Truman's message to Congress on the protection of civil rights. Considered simply as a presidential utterance, it is one of the finest in many years. The President nobly reaffirms the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. In striking contrast to the usual drabness of his literary style, there are several passages in this document which student orators should be quoting for years to come. Most of the proposals, also, are just and progressive. However, it is unhappily probable that by lumping all ten together — making them, as it were, part of one package — the President has adopted a legislative strategy which will result in the defeat of all. Politicians of all parties are cynically assuming that Mr. Truman delivered his message in this form "for the record" rather than with any expectation of securing action. Its proposals, they insist, were designed to hold the vote next November of certain minority groups — chiefly Negroes in key northern states — and not with any idea that the recommendations of the Wilson commission, as set forth in the memorable "To Secure These Rights" report, would be put into effect. The storm which the President's message has stirred in the south does not seem greatly to have frightened Democratic party managers. Congressman Rankin's publication of the charge by the speaker of the Mississippi lower house that Mr. Truman's ten-point program is "damnable, communistic, unconstitutional, anti-American and anti-southern" is shrugged off as simply more of the familiar party game. The threatened "revolt" in the south is not expected to get as far as did the revolt in Texas, Mississippi and South Carolina in 1944 — and that, as the record shows, was nowhere. In thus angling for votes in the north, the professional politicians therefore insist, the President did not jeopardize his position in the south. But if this interpretation is to be placed on Mr. Truman's move, it would seem to apply equally to the haste of Senator Ives of New York, who works closely with Governor Dewey, to push a federal FEPC bill onto the floor of the Senate. We have frequently expressed our doubt as to the wisdom of trying to deal with such evils as lynching, racial and religious discrimination in employment and denial of voting rights (by the way, what became of the second section of the 14th amendment?) by federal legislation. But we are certain that no good will come of injecting these issues into a national campaign under circumstances in which both supporters and opponents of the proposed legislation will be suspected of lack of good faith.

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## National Non-Partisan Council on Public Affairs

of

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

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3/15/48.

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Presidents Committee On Civil Rights  
734 15th. St. N.W.  
Washington, 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The National Non-Partisan Council on Public Affairs of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority believes that a significant victory for Civil rights and Human rights can be won in the next few months provided those of us who believe in Civil Rights and Human Rights work together to make our wishes known. Knowing of your work in the field of Civil Rights, we are asking you to help us get at least ten million letters and telegrams to our elected Representatives urging them to implement the Recommendations of President Truman's Civil Rights Committee by passing legislation at this session of Congress.

The enclosed folder summarizes the Recommendations of the Committee. We especially call your attention to those recommendations in the sections titled "For Strengthening the Right to Citizenship and its Privileges" and "For Equality of Opportunity."

There are some things which the President can do immediately, without waiting for legislation. The leaflet enclosed in the folder will explain four of these. May we count on you to urge the President to take these steps, now?

We further believe that America should give proof of her belief in Human Rights by energetically supporting the principles of the Draft of the International Covenant on Human Rights and by being one of the first nations to sign the Covenant. We believe that by so doing, an atmosphere will be created in which peace will thrive and confidence in America will be built. In writing letters and in urging others to write, will you include this issue also?

The Council office will be happy to supply additional copies of the folder if you desire and would welcome any suggestions you can give toward making our program more effective. In the United States, if enough people are willing to work for Civil Rights they can be achieved.

Sincerely yours,

*Norma E. Boyd*  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

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# COMMON DEFENSE

by Rev. William C. Kernan —

Vol. 4

No. 5

Date: 4/12/48

FROM INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, INC.

369 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

## Basic Americanism



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"The Civil Rights Committee did point to the basic principles of American democracy." This is the concluding sentence of an article issued by the Department of Americanism, Veterans of Foreign Wars, about the report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

The position taken by the V.F.W. rests on sound reasoning and is undeniably correct.

The article first cites some of the recommendations of the President's Committee on Civil Rights - "enactment of federal laws against lynching, the poll tax and...racial discrimination" - action by Congress and the state legislatures to outlaw "segregation and discrimination based on race, color, creed, or national origin on public transportation systems, in public schools, hospitals, theaters, restaurants, in the armed services and in private employment" - the necessity of guaranteeing "the same rights to every person regardless of who he is, where he lives, or what his racial, religious or national origin may be."

Next, the V.F.W. article affirms that "those views expressed by the Civil Rights Committee in 1947 are identical to the principles of democracy which our forefathers wrote into the Declaration of Independence 170 years ago when they stated - 'we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal - that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights - that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'"

Some Americans forget these principles in time of peace although, as the V.F.W. article observes, "We

don't forget them in time of war... because when foreign enemies threaten our rights we call upon every citizen - regardless of his creed, color or racial background - to help defend the same privileges which the Civil Rights Committee now suggests be guaranteed by law."

We have seen no comment on civil rights which excels this for clarity, directness, and sound patriotic expression. The V.F.W. deserves praise for it.

When we, therefore, contend for human rights in accordance with traditional American principles, we have allies - among them the 2,000,000 Veterans of Foreign Wars.

MALCOLM S. McCONIHE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN  
MRS. J. BORDEN HARRIMAN  
NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN

*Democratic Central Committee*

OF THE

*District of Columbia*

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Y

April 14, 1948

Mr. Gessner T. McCorvey  
Chairman  
State Democratic Executive Committee  
P. O. Box 1070  
MOBILE 6, ALABAMA

Dear Sir:

The delegation from the district of Columbia to the Philadelphia Convention will wholeheartedly support a president of courage, Harry S. Truman.

In 1940 Alabama supported and voted for the following plank in our platform:

"Our Negro citizens have participated actively in the economic and social advances launched by this administration, including fair labor standards, social security benefits, health protection, work-relief projects, decent housing, aid to education, and the rehabilitation of low-income farm families. We have aided more than half a million negro youths in vocational training, education, and employment.

"We shall continue to strive for complete legislative safeguards against discrimination in Government service and benefits, and in the national defense forces. We pledge to uphold due process and the equal protection of the laws for every citizen, regardless of race, creed, or color."

It is difficult to understand why you supported that plank in 1940 and now condemn the President for standing for something which you wholeheartedly previously approved.

Is it because you are using this as a blind to disguise your opposition to the President's position on national defense? On the preservation of our assets? On his firm foreign policy in reference to Russia?

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM PLEDGES

1940	"We favor the extension of the right of suffrage to the people of the District of Columbia."
1944	"We favor the extension of the right of suffrage to the people of the District of Columbia."

- 2 -

We here do not regard Alabama as being consistent  
or sincere in its opposition.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) Melvin D. Hildreth