

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL



March 12, 1964

Per your request by telephone today.

mcm

March
10, 1964

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES
of
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
November 1963 to March 1964

CIVIL RIGHTS

Voluntary Action: The Department has continued its firm policy of seeking voluntary private solutions to civil rights problems before taking official or court action. This policy has continued to be effective.

For example, the Administration called a series of meetings of businessmen and other community leaders last summer to discuss what could be done toward desegregation of public accommodations. Figures reported to the Department of Justice demonstrate the success of this effort.

By June 21, 36 percent of the 566 cities in the South had desegregated at least some of their public facilities, such as hotels and restaurants. Between November 13, 1963 and February 11, 1964, the total increased from 60 percent to almost 70 percent.

Voting: The principal statutory responsibility of the Department in civil rights is to seek to guarantee the right to vote against discrimination. Since November, the Department has brought eight new suits, five in Mississippi and three in Alabama, to forbid discrimination against Negroes seeking to vote. These suits bring to 60 the total filed since passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957 and to 50 the number filed since January 21, 1961.

At the start of 1963, there were 19 remaining counties in the South where no Negroes were registered to vote. As the result of Department action--both informal and in court--in the past 15 months, Negroes are now registered in nine of those counties and legal actions are pending in two others.

Education: The Department was a close observer of the peaceful desegregation of Auburn University in January. The Department also is involved, as a friend of the court, in the school desegregation situation in Macon County, Alabama, where white students now have boycotted both city and county schools.

CRIMINAL

Organized Crime: The three-year coordinated federal drive against organized crime and racketeering continues to accelerate and there have been important indictments and convictions since November. Indictments have been returned against major numbers game operations in Toledo, Ohio, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Two major narcotics cases have been brought, including the February 21 arrest of two Latin American diplomats in connection with the smuggling of \$13,500,000 worth of heroin to the United States and Canada from France.

There have been important recent convictions in several areas of racketeering. Labor Racketeering: James R. Hoffa was convicted in Chattanooga, March 4, on jury-fixing charges. Public Corruption: A. Gordon Boone, speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, was convicted March 5 on six counts of mail fraud in connection with his part in the Maryland savings and loan scandals. Illegal Gambling: Anthony Grosso, the most important numbers game operator in Pittsburgh, was convicted March 7 on wagering tax evasion charges and was sentenced to nine years in prison and a \$191,000 fine.

Other Areas: Anthony deAngelis was indicted in Newark, New Jersey, December 23, on charges of transporting \$40,000,000 in forged securities in interstate commerce, in connection with the fall of his effort to corner the entire soybean oil market.

There will have been two major fraud cases brought against worthless drugs. One indictment was returned January 23 against the manufacturers and promoters of Regimen, a so-called reducing pill. A second, to be returned March 11, will charge the promoters and manufacturers of CDC Capsules with fraud and Food and Drug violations involving sales of the pill and the best-selling book, "Calories Don't Count", associated with the pills.

The Department has worked closely with the Internal Revenue Service to eliminate tax corruption. One result of this effort was the arrest of three IRS employees and three private accountants in New York City on February 4.

ANTITRUST

Price-Fixing: Among major antitrust cases involving price-fixing brought since November were: an indictment against U.S. Steel, Kaiser Steel, and other defendants, to be returned this afternoon, charging them with conspiring to submit collusive bids to governmental authorities and private purchasers for water pipe worth \$95,000,000 annually; the indictment of

Jantzen, Cole, Catalina and other swimsuit manufacturers for fixing retail prices on women's swimsuits; civil actions were filed in February against eight major fertilizer manufacturers on charges of collusive pricing which has resulted in higher costs for American farmers and for AID-financed foreign purchasers.

Merger Cases: On January 20, the Department brought suit against four of Hawaii's "Big Five" charging that their ownership of the Matson Navigation Company, the dominant shipping line to Hawaii, unlawfully limits competition for freight shippers. On February 19, the Department blocked the imminent merger of the Schlitz Brewing Company with a Canadian brewery--a merger which would give Schlitz control of the largest brewery on the West Coast.

THE WHITE HOUSE

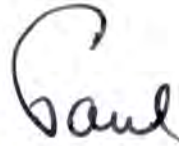
WASHINGTON

April 21, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR

Lee White

Enclosed is a draft of a campaign fact sheet on civil rights. Moyers asked me to forward it to you for your comment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul".

Paul Southwick

Enclosure

DRAFT

Administration Record: Established equal opportunity

**The Goal: A nation free of bias and discrimination --
a nation which guarantees all people equal
opportunity in all things regardless of race
or national origin with full and equal protection
of the law.**

religion

Key Kennedy quote:

"I ask you to look into your hearts -- not in search of charity, for the Negro neither wants nor needs condescension -- but for the one plain, proud and priceless quality that unites us all as Americans; a sense of justice. In this year of the Emancipation Centennial, justice requires us to insure the blessing of liberty for all Americans and their posterity -- not merely for reasons of economic efficiency, world diplomacy and domestic tranquility -- but, above all, because it is right."

John F. Kennedy
Message on Civil Rights and
Job Opportunities
June 19, 1963

Key Johnson quote:

"We have talked long enough in this country about equal rights. We have talked for 100 years or more. It is now time to write the next chapter, and to write it in the books of law. I urge you again, as I did in 1957 and again in 1960, to enact a civil rights law so that we can move forward to eliminate from this Nation every trace of discrimination and oppression that is based upon race or

color. There could be no greater source of strength to this Nation both at home and abroad."

Lyndon B. Johnson
Message to Joint Session
of Congress
November 7, 1963

What was wrong

The bitter, often violent local reaction to non-violent Negro demonstrations such as "sit ins" and "freedom rides" was becoming a matter of deep national concern.

What Democrats have done

Backed by bi-partisan public opinion the new administration moved quickly and firmly to give legal protection to peaceful demonstrators who have been arrested and jailed unjustly.

Within months of the new Kennedy-Johnson administration, airport facilities at Jackson, Mississippi, New Orleans, Louisiana; Montgomery, Alabama; Shreveport, Louisiana, and 15 other airports were successfully desegregated. Also in 1961, all interstate buses were prohibited from practicing discrimination.

This was the first such Federal action ever taken in these areas of racial inequality. The principal objective of the "freedom riders" had been achieved.

Breaking the racial barrier of public accommodations remains a most serious problem but, here again, the administration has achieved very considerable progress:

-- in a series of executive orders discrimination was prohibited in all concessions and other businesses located in Federal buildings and parks and military posts, in all public events using Federal property or using military personnel.

-- a comprehensive and workable "public accommodation" section was included in the administration's omnibus Civil Rights bill which has strong bi-partisan support.

-- on April 9, 1964, President Johnson announced that great progress was being made in 390 of the 566 communities of the south (of 10,000 population and over) toward increasing desegregation of public places. Two-thirds of this progress has been made since May 1963.

What was wrong

Unemployment among Negroes and other minority groups was increasing at an alarming and disproportionate rate.

What Democrats have done

Within weeks after assuming office, the Kennedy-Johnson administration took unprecedented action to meet this problem:

-- on March 6, 1961, an Executive Order was issued establishing a Presidential Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity with Vice President Johnson as chairman. The jurisdiction of this committee not only encompassed Federal employment, involving 2.2 million civilian employees, but the employment of government contractors and of Federally-assisted construction projects.

-- immediately Chairman Johnson broadened the effectiveness of the Committee by forming a "Plan for Progress" group in which major business firms voluntarily initiate action to eliminate discrimination in their hiring policies. On April 9, 1964, President Johnson announced that

192 major American corporations,
employing 7 million persons, had
joined this national voluntary program
because it was "sound economics."
All 192 firms reported greatly
increased percentage of Negro employees.

-- A Program for Fair Practices was
launched among organized labor and
today more than 12 1/2 million union
members are committed to a non-
discriminatory policy within their
union.

-- Business forms have contracts with
the Federal government are now
required to submit manpower profiles.
This has encouraged these employers to
take corrective action on their own
initiative after studying the profiles.

-- also in March, 1961, a sub-Cabinet group was created to take immediate corrective action to provide and maintain real equal opportunity in Federal employment. Since 1961, Federal employment has increased by only a little more than 100,000, but Negro employment went up by nearly 20,000, an increase of 3%. Spanish-American employment increased 2% and similar increases are recorded for Indians, Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans.

-- a Federal program of high school and college recruitment has been launched to encourage persons from minority groups to make a career of government service.

-- a re-evaluation of government employees' abilities and potential has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of Negroes being appointed to jobs in higher grades and high supervisory and administrative posts.

The number of Negroes in the \$8,000 to \$12,000 government salary bracket increased 19.5% since 1961; in the \$12,000 to \$18,000 bracket the increase has been 38.7%. In the smaller minority groups the same encouraging pattern of increases are a matter of record.

-- more Negroes have been appointed to posts of high government ranks than at any time in history: a director of U. S. Information Agency who sits

in on Cabinet meetings; ambassadors,
housing administrator, White House
associate press secretary, U. S. judge,
etc.

-- since 1961, as a result of these
administrative policies, National
employment of Negroes in white collar
jobs has increased 17.5%, while total
National white-collar employment
increased only 1.9%.

-- at administration request and with
bi-partisan support, a Fair Employment
Practices section was included as a
vital part of the Civil Rights bill.

What was wrong

Schools in too many areas
were disregarding -- even--

What Democrats have done

The Kennedy-Johnson administration
did not hesitate to use all available

flaunting -- the United States Supreme Court's order to desegregate "at all reasonable speed".

legal means to support desegregation of schools:

-- since 1961, more than 1100 schools districts have been desegregated.

-- the Justice Department has intervened in a number of court actions involving school segregation; notably the Prince Edwards County, Virginia case where all public schools have been closed since the Supreme Court decision in 1954.

-- by Executive order, September, 1963, prohibited school segregation in impacted areas where government installations are located.

-- ordered that library services will not be Federally supported if services are not made available to all residents on a non-discriminatory basis.

--at University of Alabama and Mississippi the full force of Federal government was employed to carry out court orders requiring admission of Negro students.

Robert S. Johnson

-- the Manpower Development and Training Program and the Civil Defense Adult Education program impose strict non-discriminatory policies.

-- Cooperation and persuasion by the administration has resulted in the quiet and un-noticed desegregation of hundreds of schools.

What was wrong

Housing discrimination in many large cities was creating ghettos

What Democrats have done

Two actions taken by the Kennedy-Johnson administration must be

and creeping slums. Many of these cities were facing a serious problem of inner decay. Discrimination in housing was becoming "bad economics".

considered as historic milestones in the battle to achieve equality:

-- the Housing Act of 1961 represented a massive assault on the national housing problem and the strict non-discriminatory policies of the program will head the way to ultimate equality of housing opportunity.

-- establishment, by Executive order in 1962, of the Equal Opportunity in Housing Committee to help the various government agencies to take every proper and legal action to prevent discrimination in the sale and lease of housing facilities owned or operated by the Federal government; housing construction or sold as a result of government loans or grants, or loans insured or guaranteed by the government.

These two programs provide the base for the eventual elimination of discrimination in housing.

The administration stepped up the rate of grant assistance for urban renewal from \$262 million per year (1956 through 1961) to a current rate of about \$672 million which has gone a long way toward eliminating blight and decay in cities and providing new housing opportunities for many people without discrimination.

Expanded Federal assistance and funds have been allocated to improve housing conditions for the American Indian since 1961.

What was wrong

Too many persons were being denied the right to vote because

What Democrats have done

The Kennedy-Johnson administration and a Democratic Congress moved

of poll taxes and other
discriminatory requirements.

quickly and forthrightly to meet this
problem of disenfranchisement.

-- with vigorous administration support
Congress passed a constitutional
amendment outlawing the poll-tax in
1962. In February 1964, the 38th and
39th states ratified the constitutional
amendment and on February 4, 1964,
President Johnson witnessed the signing
of the proclamation that made it our
24th Amendment.

-- since 1961, the Department of
Justice has litigated 57 voting rights
cases, resulting in the registration
and voting of thousands of citizens
previously denied their right to vote.

What was wrong

Bias and prejudice at home was seriously impairing our our image and our relations abroad. Communists were using this as an effective propaganda tool.

What Democrats have done

The bold, positive actions taken by the Kennedy-Johnson administration, with wide bi-partisan support has effectively blunted the propaganda edge of the Communists and convinced people throughout the world that we were honestly and courageously trying to remedy an unfortunate problem.

By appointing distinguished Negroes as ambassadors and to the United Nations we are rapidly restoring the bright image of freedom and opportunity.

Persons from all American minority groups have been vigorously recruited for the Peace Corps which, without a doubt, is one of the principal reasons for its great international success and effectiveness.

After over 100 years of passive acceptance of inequality, Negroes no longer were to be denied their rights of full citizenship and economic and social equality. Positive action was long over-due.

When President Johnson was Majority Leader in the Senate, he led Congress to the enactment of the first Civil Rights bill in 85 years. He mobilized bi-partisan support for the bill and was able to do it because men of both parties realized then that positive action had to be taken.

Momentum in civil rights accelerated from that point on under the leadership of the Kennedy-Johnson administration and by the rising tide of Negro sentiment and public opinion.

Passage of the Civil Rights bill will mark these four years as the period of greatest progress in our nation's history in providing equality to all our citizens.

Republican Record:

It is one of the ironies of American history that the party of Abraham Lincoln, following the emancipation of Negroes suddenly lost interest and became a political symbol of bland good intentions and nervous equivocation in the cause of civil rights.

The Democratic Party, by contrast, split and fragmented by the war between the States has, despite internecine differences, become the recognized champion of equality for minorities.

None of this happened by accident. Each political party has created its own record on this issue.

However, it is encouraging to note that in recent years a number of distinguished Republican leaders are urging their party to desert the long-held belief that there is political advantage in embarrassing the Democrats and to join a bipartisan effort

to guarantee complete equality to all people of this nation regardless of race, creed or national origin. These Republican leaders have shown a high degree of leadership and goodwill.

Democrats welcome this bipartisan support, as does the whole nation, because there can be no permanent solution to the civil rights cause without it.

And in the end credit for the accomplishment can be shared by all the people, and the nation will be stronger, more free, more proud, more secure. This is the reward both political parties can share together.

The Challenge:

The challenge that lies ahead was said best by President Johnson on April 9, 1964, when he addressed the participating business members of the "Plans for Progress" group at the White House. He said:

"So it is to these goals that we are all committed. We must, therefore, realize that the passage of this bill (the Civil Rights Bill) only leaves us on the side of the hill, with the big peak still above us. To reach that peak is going to require the cooperation, the good will, the moral courage, the determination, the good sense and the patriotism of every single American."

Mar. 12, 1964

Notes on Civil Rights Activities During the First 100 Days

I have stressed the commitment of my Administration to equality of opportunity and treatment for all Americans in

- my first address to the Joint Session of Congress as President
- the State of the Union address
- my remarks upon witnessing the Anti-Poll Tax Amendment formal ceremony
- news conferences
- the Economic Report
- the Special Message on Housing and Community Development
- numerous other formal and informal documents and speeches.

The passage of a good and fair Civil Rights Bill remains our top legislative item. The highly satisfactory manner in which the House Rules Committee cleared the way for the Bill and the overwhelming support for it in the House is most satisfying and rewarding.

Although the appointment of Carl Rowan received nationwide attention there have been others, including two federal judges (Spottswood Robinson and Leon Higginbotham) and Mrs. Frankie Freeman as a member of the Civil Rights Commission. Moreover there are continuing throughout the federal government efforts to ensure that employment and promotion are based on merit.

I have held numerous meetings in connection with civil rights including

- key leaders of national Negro organizations
- the Committee on Equal Opportunity in Housing
- the Committee on Equal Opportunity in the Armed Forces
- the Subcabinet key officials dealing with civil rights
- companies participating in and contemplating joining the
Plans for Progress program.

During the 100 days

- Auburn University has been uneventfully desegregated
and the federal government has secured compliance
with the federal court order transferring Negro high
school children in Macon County, Alabama to
previously all-white schools
- the Supreme Court decision on hospital desegregation is
being implemented by HEW regulations requiring
admittance of patients and professional staffing
of hospitals on a nondiscriminatory basis in
federally financed hospitals

-- the Justice Department has instituted eight cases in federal court to secure the right to register, a record comparable to any 100 day period; in addition, I have written personally to every Governor and to the Mayor of every principle city urging local action to achieve the broadest possible registration as recommended by the Commission on Registration and Voting Participation