

Hence, for these reasons alone we urge the Congress to authorize the appointment of an additional Assistant Attorney General and the creation of a new Division in the Department to handle all civil rights matters. But even more important reasons make such action imperative. The civil rights field is extraordinarily complex. Nearly every case involves subtle problems of constitutional interpretation along with delicate problems of federal-state relationships. Every day as I deal with these problems, along with the myriad others which cross my desk, I become more conscious of the need to have responsibility centered in a well qualified lawyer with the status of a presidential appointee who will be able to devote his full time and attention to the legal aspects of civil rights problems within the area of Federal jurisdiction.

III. Civil Rights Commission.

Above and beyond the need for improving the legal remedies for dealing with specific civil rights violations is the need for greater knowledge and understanding of all of the complex problems involved. The proposal before you would create a bipartisan Executive Commission for the express purpose of making a full scale study of the problem and of reporting within a two year period. It would be a temporary body designed to obtain information and not a continuing agency. In order that it would be able to be effective it would be given the authority to subpoena witnesses, take testimony under oath in public hearings, and request necessary data from any executive department or agency. A full scale public study by such a Commission will, we hope and expect, tend to unite responsible people of good will in common effort to solve these problems.

It should be remembered that under existing law there is no agency anywhere in the executive branch of the federal government with authority to

