

On April 9, 1956, I transmitted to the Vice President and to the Speaker of the House a four-point program recommended by the Administration to protect the civil rights of our people. I am appearing before you today in support of this same program.

As you will remember, President Eisenhower, in his State of the Union Message delivered to the Congress on January 19, 1957, reemphasized that we in this nation have much reason to be gratified at the progress our people are making in mutual understanding. He reiterated that we are steadily moving closer to the goal of fair and equal treatment of all citizens without regard to race or color. The President observed, however, that "unhappily, much remains to be done." As a substantial step toward achieving this goal he urged passage of the Administration program.

This program includes:

- (1) Creation of a bipartisan commission to investigate asserted violations of law in the field of civil rights, especially involving the right to vote, and to make recommendations;
- (2) Creation of a civil rights division in the Department of Justice in charge of a Presidentially appointed Assistant Attorney General;
- (3) Enactment by the Congress of new laws to aid in the enforcement of voting rights;
- (4) Amendment of the laws so as to permit the Federal Government to seek from the civil courts preventive relief in civil rights cases.



Proposed bills to carry out the Administration program were submitted to the Congress last year. These bills in the form submitted by us are contained in S. 83, which was introduced into this Congress by Senator Dirksen and 36 other distinguished members of the Senate and which is now before this Subcommittee for consideration. S. 83 also contains some additional provisions relating to the proposed bipartisan commission on which I shall comment later.