

investigate general allegations of deprivation of civil rights, including the right to vote. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has an investigative jurisdiction in this subject matter, but its authority is limited to investigating specific charges of violations of federal criminal statutes. Thus the services of the FBI can be utilized in this field only in gathering information and evidence in connection with specific charges which, if proven, can lead to criminal prosecution.

Throughout the government there are excellent agencies that compile information on business and labor statistics, living costs, agricultural problems, weather conditions - almost every facet of our daily life. There is no agency authorized to gather information concerning the most vital function of our governmental life - our federally-protected constitutional rights, the most important of which is the right to vote. They are rights without which government under the Constitution could not exist. The right to vote is itself the very life-blood of representative government. This is a vital function about which all citizens, and Members of Congress particularly, should have full and complete information. Yet we do not have either the information or adequate means of securing it.



The Commission proposed by the President would present the means of securing this vitally needed information.

At the outset of my statement I noted that S. 83 contained with reference to the proposed Commission some provisions additional to those recommended by the Administration. One of these, the addition of the word "sex" on line 7, page 11, would make it the duty of the Commission to investigate allegations that citizens are being subjected to unwarranted economic pressures by reason of their sex. This provision is not germane to the purpose of the legislation and should be stricken. If it is felt that there are serious problems of