

present statutes, we are not recommending amendment of them at this time. The area of civil rights, always a sensitive and delicate one, has become even more so in recent months. Convictions in criminal cases, even with the best of statutes, are extremely difficult to obtain. There is grave doubt in our minds, as I know there must be in yours, whether any further extension of the criminal law into this area would at the present time be wise. There are reasonable grounds, founded in current experiences of federal investigative agencies and federal prosecutors, to fear that much more harm than good would be accomplished. Furthermore, we are hopeful, as I have stated, that the addition of civil remedies will enable the Department to accomplish much that never could be done in criminal prosecutions. Perhaps after a period of experience with the civil remedies we will be in a position to come back to Congress seeking amendments to the criminal statutes to cover specifically any areas which such experience shows can be satisfactorily dealt with only by criminal prosecutions.

S. Con. Res. 5 proposes the establishment of a Joint Committee of the Congress on Civil Rights. We of course have no objection to the creation of such a Committee if Congress desires it. I want to add, however, that we do not feel that such a Committee should be considered a substitute for the Executive Commission proposed by the Administration.

