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Facilities operated by or under the jurisdiction of
the Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior in connection with the use of public recreational facilities, the administration of Indian affairs, and the peoples of the territorial and island possessions, most of whom are not of the white race, does not sanction or permit racial segregation. The Department's regulations expressly prohibit such segregation. In addition, concessionaires operating facilities in areas under the Department's jurisdiction are required, by contract, to refrain from practicing or permitting racial segregation. Among such facilities are swimming pools, tourist lodgings, golf courses, eating facilities, and hotels. The Department has advised that its experience has shown that non-segregated operation of its facilities is not only practicable but has reduced racial tensions.

Airport facilities

The question of racial segregation in connection with airport facilities is one in which the Department of Commerce is interested. That interest arises in connection with airport facilities in areas of the South acquired by the United States and granted to states and municipalities under contracts providing that the grantees shall not impose unjust discriminations in the operation thereof. As a consequence of the Supreme Court decision in the school segregation cases the Commerce Department, in conjunction with the Attorney General, is undertaking to explore the possibility of whether the non-discrimination clause of the contracts can be utilized as a means for eliminating racial segregation at the airport facilities involved.

The District of Columbia

The situation in the District of Columbia may be summarized as follows: (1) Schools, see above; (2) as a result of the decision in the Thompson case (District of Columbia v. John R. Thompson Co., Inc., 346 U. S. 100 (1953)), segregation has been ended in restaurants, lunch rooms, and all other public eating-houses; (3) a non-discrimination clause is required in all District of Columbia contracts; (4) the Board of Recreation has abolished segregation throughout its facilities; (5) racial discrimination is prohibited in employment by the District Government and in the use of its facilities and services; extended to the fire-fighting division of the D. C. Fire Department, August 19, 1954, and (6) on December 7, 1954, steps were initiated to secure a judicial determination as to the enforceability of the provisions of the Act of the Legislative Assembly of 1872 and the ordinances promulgated by the Corporation of Washington in 1869 and 1870, other than those provisions applicable to restaurants. These additional provisions prohibit racial discrimination by proprietors of hotels, barber shops, bathing houses, and places of amusement. In this connection, it should be noted that segregation has been voluntarily abandoned by operators of motion picture theatres and, more recently, by major hotels.

Housing

In the area of housing it will be noted that the Housing and Home Finance Agency has reorganized and expanded its Racial Relations Service. There has been established a Coordination Committee on Racial Activities consisting of the top Racial Relations Officers of the HHFA and there has been created a racial relations post in each of the six regional offices of the HHFA (HHFA Press Release, January 10, 1955). The Administrator of the Agency has also taken steps to