

NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Room 904 Munsey Building • 1329 E Street, N.W. • Washington, D. C., 20004 • Tel. 783-7071

Co-Chairmen
Mrs. Douglas Horton
Mrs. William B. Harris

Executive Director
Miss Shirley B. Smith

April 17, 1964

MEMORANDUM

To : Related Organizations and State & City Groups

From: Co-Chairmen, NWCCR

I. THE DISCUSSION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL continues but it is now clear that its passage will not solve all problems! The next stage will involve educating our communities to comply with the new law. This involves all of us and we urge each organization in its own way to plan now for action when the bill is enacted into law.

Action is needed to create the public opinion which will support those who comply with the new provisions. Whereas segregation has long been the acceptable pattern, it is now important to make desegregation acceptable by the general public and, therefore, by individuals who serve the public as officials or as independent business leaders.

Creating public opinion is one way in which every citizen exerts influence. If women, personally and collectively, can work to create opinion favorable to human rights in general, compliance with a strong civil rights bill in particular, they will render the kind of public service for which the National Women's Committee for Civil Rights and its related organizations came into being.

II. AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE of the National Women's Committee for Civil Rights the resignation of Shirley B. Smith was accepted with great appreciation for the service she has rendered the Committee as Executive Director.

We have been fortunate in that Mrs. Geoffrey Wilson, a friend of the Committee who has given many hours of service during the last several months, will continue her volunteer services to us.

Mrs. Wilson will be the point of contact between the National Committee and the groups of women organized in five States and fourteen cities to work for civil rights. She is familiar with these groups and their concerns and we are grateful to her for her continued help as a volunteer dedicated to the cause of human freedom.


Mrs. Douglas Horton

Co-Chairmen


Mrs. William Beasley Harris

... to create public understanding of our moral responsibilities and to implement the President's Civil Rights Program