

Food, health and welfare.—Many children are born into homes of incredible poverty. The Welfare system in Alabama allows \$89 per month for a family of four and does not provide mothers with pre-natal care. Before the child is of school age he may be suffering from serious physical or mental ills which stem directly from malnutrition. In one of the counties investigated, 80 percent of the Negro children suffered from anemia due to malnutrition and, as a result, had a life expectancy 8 to 10 years less than white children. Federal programs that provide food have been instituted or applied for in some counties only within the last year because the decision has been left up to local authorities. The commodities distributed in counties with such a program do not provide adequate diets, even though the Secretary of Agriculture has the authority to increase the variety of foods. The food stamp program fails to reach many people because of the cost of the stamps.

Education.—Even if children have not been terribly damaged by effects of malnutrition, their economic opportunities will not be improved much by the education they are receiving. By any measure considered important in the educational process, Negro children are suffering. It hardly needs to be said that schools are almost totally segregated. In the segregated schools Negroes have inferior facilities, fewer library books, poorer teachers, and the schools are not accredited. Courses offered in white schools prepare students for further education or for jobs for which there is a demand. Courses in Negro schools do not. So Negro children finish high school 5 to 6 grades below national standards in achievement tests and without any marketable skills.

Employment.—The lack of training received by Negroes is evidenced, in part, by the jobs they hold. Negroes hold less than one-fourth of industrial jobs in the Black Belt and the jobs they do hold are all laborer or semi-skilled occupations. Racial discrimination continues to exclude even the qualified. Companies holding millions of dollars of government contracts and required to take steps to provide equal opportunity engage in blatant discrimination.

For example, the American Can Company is a government contractor. Its Company town, Bellamy is totally segregated. Only four black homes have running water and inside toilet facilities; every white house has running water and inside toilet facilities. American Can also owns the school, which is all black—the white children and some black children are bused to the nearest town to attend a predominantly white school. The maintenance and operation of segregated facilities is, of course, a violation of Federal law and the company's contract with the Federal government.

Patterns of discrimination also were found in retail businesses and in public employment.

Agriculture.—Young people are not enabled to lead productive lives either in urban or rural areas. Nor are government programs making it possible for older farmers to make a satisfactory living on the farm. Many Negro farmers continue to be marginally or totally dependent because they still are farming as they did in the 1930's. The Cooperative Extension Service's farm agents instruct farmers in modern farming practices. They have not done this for thousands of poor Negro farmers. Negro farmers also have been excluded from benefits of programs of the Farmers Home Administration already mentioned.

Political Participation.—The continuing economic subjugation of Negroes, finally, is perpetuated by exclusion of Negroes from access to the avenues of political change. Poverty and dependence, the Commission learned, greatly deter Negroes from seeking to improve their lot by asserting themselves politically.

What I have just described are generally examples of insufficient resources, or programs so structured that they do not reach the people they are intended for. Beyond this, however, to the extent programs could be useful, we find that civil rights requirements are not being enforced. These matters have been raised with the agencies concerned. Mr. Howard Glickstein, our General Counsel, will discuss briefly some of the letters we have written to agencies.

GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

Over the years the Commission has made many recommendations which, if implemented, would help to eliminate discrimination and improve opportunity for citizens both in rural and urban areas. Among these have been recommendations—

1. That the Federal Government establish a national minimum standard for public assistance payments below which no State could fall and that it remove