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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL
HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES

SHOREHAM-AMERICANA HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1974



BY:

STANLEY S. SCOTT
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO
THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

IT IS A DISTINCT HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO BE WITH YOU
TODAY AND BRING GREETINGS TO YOUR GREAT ASSOCIATION.
I STRONGLY SUPPORT YOUR HIGH PURPOSE AND EFFORTS TO
BRING ABOUT FULL EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL PEOPLE.

YOUR CONFERENCE THEME ADDRESSES A VERY VALID QUESTION:
"CIVIL RIGHTS --- REALITY OR MYTH." IT WAS JUST A FEW YEARS
AGO THAT BLACKS VIEWED THE IDEALS OF TRUE MYTH. IT TOOK AN
INTENSE MORAL FERVOUR AND THE SHARED BELIEF THAT JUSTICE
WOULD BE DELIVERED TO ALL THE NATION'S CITIZENS TO CHANGE
DOUBT INTO A SUCCESSFUL DRIVING FORCE FOR THAT HAS BECOME
THE CORNERSTONE QUEST FOR EQUAL RIGHTS. THIS FERVOR IS ALIVE
TODAY, THOUGH NOT AS STRUCTURED AND AS CHANNELED AS THE NOW
FAMOUS MARCH ON SELMA, OR THE ROAD TO MONTGOMERY OR THE
SIT-INS.

IN THE WORDS OF THE LATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, CIVIL
RIGHTS WAS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAD COME.



TODAY, TRUE CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE EQUALITY OF MANKIND TO ALL MEN STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO TO RUN ITS COURSE, BUT WE ARE WORKING ON IT.

CIVIL RIGHTS IS A MAJOR CONCERN THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. VIGOROUS PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN INITIATED TO BRING ABOUT THE MOST DRAMATIC SOCIAL GAINS IN RECENT HISTORY.

THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION IN VOTING, EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, EDUCATION, PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT HAS BEEN AN OVERRIDING AND UNDERLINING THEME THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS STRESSED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, THE TOTAL OUTLAYS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVITIES HAS GONE FROM \$900 MILLION IN 1969 TO \$3.5 BILLION FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR.

THIS ADMINISTRATION CAN PROUDLY BOAST OF THE NEW AMENDMENTS TO TITLE VII OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT, KNOWN AS THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1972 WHICH GIVES THE EEOC AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NEW ENFORCEMENT



RESPONSIBILITIES IN DISCRIMINATORY EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.

THE COMMISSION NOW HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SEEK COURT ENFORCEMENT OF ITS DECISIONS ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR. YOU MAY RECALL THE RECENT SETTLEMENTS WITH THE STEEL INDUSTRY FOR 36 MILLION DOLLARS IN BACK PAY AND DAMAGES, AND A SIMILAR SETTLEMENT WITH THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CAN BRING CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR JOB DISCRIMINATION WITHIN FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

UNDER THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL ACT, THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION IS NOW ASSISTING STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BY FUNDING IMPROVED TESTING AND SELECTION PROCEDURES.

A PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER FORBIDS DISCRIMINATION WHEN STATE AND LOCAL UNITS ARE INVOLVED IN FEDERAL CONTRACTING. WITH GENERAL REVENUE SHARING NOW A REALITY, AND WITH OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE SHARING BILLS PENDING BEFORE THE



CONGRESS, THE SEVERAL STATES AND THE MANY MUNICIPALITIES WILL FIND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LOOKING OVER THEIR SHOULDERS IN THE AREA OF CIVIL RIGHTS. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CAN BE ASSURED OF ENFORCEMENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHENEVER FEDERAL FUNDS ARE INVOLVED.

THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AND THE GENERAL ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES OF MY OFFICE.

THROUGHOUT THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH THERE ARE DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANTS, MANY OF WHOM MAY BE A MEMBER OF YOUR GROUP, WHO ARE WORKING AT ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION.

YOU HAVE SEEN THE HEADLINES CREATED BY THE OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE IN SCHOOL AND COLLEGE INTERGRATION. FAIR HOUSING, VOTING RIGHTS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT ARE ALL GIVEN OUR ATTENTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE.



AS WE MOVE TOWARD THE YEAR OF 1976 AND THE CELEBRATION OF THIS NATION'S 200TH BIRTHDAY, I KNOW THAT YOUR ASSOCIATION WILL WANT TO BE ABLE TO REFLECT ON ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS ACROSS THE BOARD IN ITS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVES FOR ALL AMERICANS. I CHALLENGE YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY, TO MOVE ON TO EVEN MORE GREATNESS AS YOU MAKE THE AMERICAN DREAM OF FAIR PLAY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY A REALITY FOR ALL AMERICANS.

THANK YOU.

