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March 9, 1976

SUBJECT: HEW CIVIL RIGHTS SUIT
DECISION

Yesterday Judge Edward Northrop of the US District Court of Baltimore ruled that HEW had acted "arbitrarily and whimsically" in threatening to cut off HEW education funds to Maryland and Virginia in a disagreement over school desegregation programs.

What is the President's reaction, and will he take any measures against HEW?

GUIDANCE: The only thing the White House has seen so far on the Federal District Court ruling were the reports in the paper. The President will not do anything until he receives a full evaluation of the decision from HEW, and we don't know as yet how long that will take. Until then, we will have no comment on the case.

ME

Q. Does the President have any reaction to the Civil Rights Commission report which states that the federal government has been largely ineffective in its efforts to bar racial and sexual discrimination in its federally assisted programs?

A. The White House has not yet received a copy of the Commission's report, although I understand that one is on the way. It will be referred to the Domestic Council for assessment and recommendation to the President. The various agencies affected by the report also will be asked to review that section of the report dealing with the particular agency and make a report to the Domestic Council as to what action it recommends taking.

Q. The report recommended that the President issue an Executive Order transferring responsibility for Title 6 programs, which prohibit racial or ethnic discrimination in federally assisted programs, from the Attorney General's office to the Office of Management and Budget. Will the President do it?

A. As I said before, we will review the report when it arrives and ask the various agencies for their views before we take whatever action is appropriate.

Q. Does the White House believe, as the Commission charged, that the public is receiving incomplete, inaccurate and false information on school desegregation and busing?

A. No.

Chicago Tribune 11-12-75

On race, sex bias

U.S. enforcement
of rights act ripped

Q. What does the President plan to do about the Civil Rights Commission's charge that the government is not doing enough to enforce integration in the Nation's schools?

A. As I said yesterday, the Report arrived here Tuesday evening. No one has had a chance to study and analyze it. Judging from what the President did in response to previous reports by the Commission, I believe he will ask the agencies which were surveyed by the Commission to give the President a report and respond to the allegations.

The President believes, however, that the Federal Government is enforcing the civil rights statutes which are on the books, including those which cover school integration.



~~CIVIL~~ RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT

This is the third report by the Commission which is critical of some part of the executive branch for not "fully enforcing federal laws pertaining to civil rights."

The report arrived yesterday afternoon and no one has had a chance to take a look at it.

This report covers HEW, IRS and the Veterans Administration. Peter Holmes, head of the office of Civil Rights at HEW, says the report is not balanced and ignores many of the new initiatives taken by HEW.

Attached is a copy of the President's letter covering the first two volumes of the report. The President said in the letter back to Arthur Flemming, chairman of the commission:

"The views and recommendations of the Commission raise important questions about which I have requested the views of appropriate officials within the Executive branch and the regulatory agencies. You may be assured that the commission's recommendations will be fully and fairly considered."

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Q: Is the Ford Administration de-emphasizing the enforcement of civil rights laws by cutting the budget of the Civil Rights Division?

A: There will be no relaxation of civil ~~rights~~ rights investigations or the bringing of cases to enforce civil rights laws, according to the Assistant Attorney General who heads the Civil Rights Division, Stan Pottinger. I'm told that some cases may be delayed for a few weeks or so while arrangements are made for Division attorneys to make ~~greater~~ ^{greater} use of their time while they are travelling.

All other questions should be referred to the Justice Department.

(FYI ONLY--DO ~~NOT~~ NOT USE.....Stan tells me that Congress transferred jurisdiction over private employment cases from Justice to the EEOC. 26 DOJ employees and \$500,000 also was to go to EEOC. That operation is so bad that the lawyers refused to transfer over, but the money was transferred, so Stan has to figure out how to cover the deficit. About the only place the Division can save money is in travel, which is the biggest chunk of its budget other~~th~~ than salaries.)

December 17, 1974

CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT

Q: The Civil Rights Commission is reported to have sent a report to the President critical of certain executive agencies and departments. They say HUD, for example, is not enforcing the fair housing laws properly. What is your reaction?

A: *President has not reviewed the report*
The ~~report has not been received at the White House~~ *in its*
~~yet.~~ I would suggest you direct your inquiries to *its*
the agencies in question and they can respond to any *entirely.*
specific allegations that are contained in the report.

