

THE WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE NAACP

PURPOSE:

That the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which for 34 years has sought diligently to foster and protect the civil and political rights of the Negro in the United States, may continue to perform this function in the most efficient manner possible, and since, particularly during the present national crisis, everything vital to the present and future welfare of all Americans is centered in and emanating from the Nation's Capital, it is deemed necessary and expedient to establish in Washington an office, ably staffed, to serve as a "watch-dog" of the interests of Negroes in this country. Specifically, the function of the Washington Bureau will be to:

- (1) Seek out and act upon all policies affecting directly or indirectly the welfare of the Negro in the armed services, employment, citizenship, etc.
- (2) Secure and examine immediately upon introduction in Congress all bills and resolutions which may affect the welfare of Negroes.
- (3) Prepare carefully documented and logically written memorandum briefs to support legislation which will improve the lot of the Negro, and also to oppose legislation which will injure the Negro, and present these, when necessary, to House and Senate Committees in public hearings.
- (4) See that branches and the people of the country are informed of this legislation so as to bring pressure on Congressmen and Senators to vote against harmful bills and to support helpful ones.
- (5) Prepare and send out at such periods as may be deemed most effective a mimeographed or printed "Behind the Scenes" picture of matters of interest to Negroes. This service might be extended to all persons contributing a specified sum or over that sum to the support of the Bureau.
- (6) Make personal contacts with Senators and Congressmen, cabinet officers, department heads, members of the press and others, presenting the Negroes' side of the story.
- (7) Cooperate as far as possible with other agencies or organizations interested in the same or similar objectives.

In addition to the above-described functions, the Washington Bureau will serve the general public:

- (1) As a center of information on national issues affecting the Negro.
- (2) As a source of information with respect to the governmental activities and records of public officials affecting directly or indirectly the interests of Negroes.
- (3) For the purpose of receiving data on the denial of citizenship rights in local areas which can be remedied by federal action.
- (4) As a meeting place for everyone who wants to see democracy function as it should.